

Arab aid to Third World fell in '85

KUWAIT (R) — Aid from Arab-based development funds to Third World countries fell 15.7 per cent last year to \$1.65 billion, the donors' secretariat said on Saturday. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), which acts as co-ordinating secretariat for Arab national and regional development finance institutions, gave no reason for the fall disclosed in its report for the final third of 1985. The world oil glut and fall in oil prices has hit Arab and other oil producers. The report said the donors extended \$421.5 million in the last four months of 1985, helping to finance 66 projects for 39 developing countries. development organisations and agencies. The aid, in the form of funds and technical assistance, went to agriculture, education, health, energy, industry, transport and telecommunications development, and also contributed to trade deals and venture capital.

Jordan Times

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Shara'a refutes W. Berlin charges

BONN (R) — Syrian Foreign minister Farouq Al Shara'a was quoted on Saturday as denying that his country's embassy in East Berlin was involved in a bomb attack on a German-Arab society in West Berlin. Mr. Shara'a told the West German magazine Spiegel that charges that Syria had supplied explosives used in the blast, which injured seven people, were false. "It is a lie, absolute rubbish," Mr. Shara'a said. Two Arabs who admitted responsibility for the blast in the Kreuzberg district of West Berlin last March were reported by police as saying they obtained the explosives from Syria's mission in the East German capital. One of the men, Ahmad Nawaf Mansour Hazi, is also suspected of involvement in a bomb attack on a West Berlin discotheque on April 5.

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King receives cables of good wishes

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday continued to receive cables of good wishes from kings and heads of state of Arab and friendly nations on the occasion of the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan. The cables wished the King continued health and happiness and more progress and prosperity for the Arab and Islamic nations. The cables came from King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, President Hafez Al Assad of Syria, Saudi Deputy Prime Minister Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz, and Bahraini her apparent Prince Hamad Ibn Issa Al Khalifa. The King received other messages on Friday, the first day of the Holy Month.

Arab attacked in Jenin

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli forces placed a curfew on the occupied West Bank town of Jenin on Saturday after an Arab was stabbed in the throat, military officials said. The man was taken to hospital after the incident in the town's market place, the officials said. The past year has seen a spate of stabbings in the occupied territories. Last weekend an Arab from the town of Abu Gosh, near Jerusalem, was stabbed in the occupied Gaza Strip.

E.C. bans food imports from East Europe

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community states Saturday night agreed a plan to suspend imports of fresh food from seven Eastern European countries following the Chernobyl nuclear accident, an EC official said. The move was made possible by a late change of heart by Italy, who finally agreed not to insist on linking the ban to measures to control radiation levels in food traded between member states. The move is likely to come into effect on Monday.

Moscow names new envoy to Lebanon

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union has appointed Vasily Kolotusha, a career diplomat specialising in Middle Eastern affairs, to be ambassador in Lebanon, TASS reported. Mr. Kolotusha, 45, has been minister-counsellor at the Soviet embassy in Iraq since 1983, the official news agency said. Prior to that, he served as a counsellor in the Foreign Ministry and chief of the section for Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. TASS said the former ambassador in Lebanon, Alexander Soldatov, was retiring.

Bangkok suffers worst rains in 500 years

BANGKOK (R) — Passengers were told to allow four hours for the 30-kilometre trip to Bangkok airport on Saturday after the city was paralysed by what weather experts called the worst rains in 500 years. Police said four persons were electrocuted on Friday as flood waters, waist deep in places, inundated over 90 per cent of the Thai capital. Meteorologists said 381 millimetres of rain fell in 24 hours.

Britain expels 3 Syrian diplomats

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain on Saturday ordered three Syrian diplomats to leave the country after their government refused to waive diplomatic immunity so police could question them in connection with alleged guerrilla activities.

Ewen Ferguson, Foreign Office deputy under-secretary of state, called in Syrian ambassador Loutof Allah Haydar and told him that the three, all attaches at the London embassy, had to leave Britain within seven days. A Foreign Office statement said Damascus was willing for the three to be questioned inside the Syrian embassy, but under the cover of diplomatic immunity. Scotland Yard rejected the offer, believing that whatever evidence was obtained under these conditions would not stand up in court, it said. Ambassador Haydar denied Syria was involved in any violence on British soil, and said that since no specific charges were levelled at his staff, there was no reason to

withdraw request. A decision on that would be taken in Damascus, he said.

"We offered our help and our cooperation to the British security authorities in order to help them to define exactly who was behind this abortive plot at Heathrow," he said.

He said the Syrian embassy in London had nothing to hide. "We have had no knowledge of or involvement in guerrilla activity on British soil," he added.

He described the three as officers or civil servants of the embassy and rejected suggestions that they were embassy guards.

A 31-year-old Arab, Nezar Hindawi, is being held on charges of planting the bomb in his Irish girlfriend's luggage without her knowledge and sending her to board the plane.

London Broadcasting Corporation Radio said that Britain suspected Syrian diplomats of supplying the components of the bomb, and that Hindawi contacted a Syrian diplomat after

(Continued on page 3)

Bar-Lev says Israel may 'retaliate' against Syria

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Police Minister Chaim Bar-Lev indicated on Saturday Israel might "retaliate" against Syria if there was clear evidence it was behind an attempt to plant a bomb on an Israeli airliner in London.

Israel believed in "punishing" those involved in guerrilla attacks, he told Israel Radio.

"No one is immune to such actions," he said.

Asked if Israel would act against Syria if it became clear it was involved in the bomb plot last month, Bar-Lev said: "In principle, definitely yes."

Prime Minister Shimon Peres said on Friday that Israel did not intend to attack Syria and that there were no indications Damascus was about to attack Israel.

His remarks were clearly aimed at cooling reports of tension on the Golan Heights ceasefire line between the two countries.

The British Foreign Office said on Saturday that Britain had ordered Syria to withdraw three of its

diplomats from the country within seven days.

Damascus had refused to allow Britain to question them in connection with alleged guerrilla activities, and denied any involvement in such activities.

Former military intelligence chief General Yehoshua Sagei said in a television interview that Israel should launch air raids on Syrian-controlled areas in Lebanon to "deter" Damascus from any actions that would "harm" Israel.

He said Damascus would view the absence of Israeli "retaliation" for guerrilla attacks as encouragement to increase its military presence in Lebanon.

"We are being tested all the time by Damascus, to see whether our policy has changed," said Sagei.

"Israel isn't reacting today. We should either tell the Syrians please come in (to Lebanon), or carry out a real threat against them," he said.

Spain says suspects admit Libyan link

MADRID (R) — Spanish police have arrested 10 guerrilla suspects, two of whom said they received orders and money from Libya to carry out attacks on U.S. businesses, the Interior Ministry said Saturday.

A ministry statement said the arrest of a Spaniard and a Portuguese as they planted a bomb at a Madrid branch of the Bank of America on May 2 had led to the detention of five Arabs and two more Spaniards.

Spaniard Victor de Cerro and Viktor Romano, a Portuguese national, told police they were members of a Lebanon-based anti-Zionist group named "the Call of Jesus Christ," it added.

According to the ministry, they said they expected to receive \$70,000 from Libyan officials for the Madrid attack and for another on an Air France office in Lisbon.

Moscow to provide more details on Chernobyl, but many questions remain

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's agreement to supply more information on the Chernobyl accident is a major advance for international nuclear authorities but many questions still remain unanswered, Western experts said Saturday.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief said a news conference on Friday that Moscow had agreed to their requests to provide daily radiation readings from near the stricken reactor.

The Kremlin said it was also considering setting up early warning devices to inform foreign governments of potentially hazardous radiation leaks and would send experts to discuss the Chernobyl disaster at IAEA headquarters in Vienna.

The Western analysts, from Moscow embassies, said this meeting would be a major test for the Soviet Union, with many countries still indignant over the way it handled the affair.

"The amount of information the Soviets are releasing is gathering momentum. They really need this meeting to try to gain some kind of credibility among international nuclear experts," one said.

They said the information the IAEA had to work with was still scanty. "They are like gold-diggers in the Klondike, trying to find small scraps," another said.

A leading Soviet foreign affairs expert has accused Washington of using the accident at Chernobyl to try to blacken Moscow's reputation and destroy its credibility in arms control negotiations.

Georgy Arbatov, one of the Kremlin's top U.S. experts, said in

an interview broadcast on Saturday that President Reagan was out to destroy what he called the positive image which the Soviet Union had built up through various arms control initiatives.

"Then came Chernobyl and they used it immediately, saying: 'Look, you can't trust the Soviet Union. They took so long to inform the world. One cannot negotiate arms control agreements with such people'," Mr. Arbatov told Swedish Radio.

Mr. Arbatov said that if the Soviet authorities had warned the local population any earlier than it did about the accident at Chernobyl "it would have provoked a panic which could have claimed more victims than the accident itself" (Nikkei: Chernobyl may affect Geneva talks, page 8).

U.S. scientist Morris Rosen, head of the agency's nuclear safety division, praised the team of Soviet experts managing affairs at Chernobyl, headed by a vice-president of the academy of sciences, Yevgeny Velikhov.

"I can assure you... that there is a competent and well-qualified group of Soviet experts dealing with this problem," Mr. Rosen said. "They have innovative ideas and are carrying out many of these, even today."

The IAEA officials said the fire at the fourth reactor had been extinguished and that operations had already begun to pour concrete under the reactor to seal the damaged core.

The agency said 18 of the injured were suffering from fourth-degree radiation burns.

In Stockholm, an American radiation expert, contradicting far lower Swedish government estimates, said on Saturday that some 3,000 Swedes would die of cancer over the next 100 years as a direct result of the Soviet nuclear accident.

Arthur Tamplin, a biochemist who has developed a model to estimate the link between cancer and radiation, said half these deaths would affect unborn generations through genetic mutations.

Mr. Tamplin is a longstanding critic of the U.S. nuclear industry who argues that routine radiation emissions from nuclear installations are far too high and cause many cancers.

Sweden's radiological protection board said earlier this month that the Chernobyl accident would cause only an extra eight cancers in Sweden between now and the year 2030.

It added that in total it would cause 8,000 cancer cases, mostly in Eastern Europe.

Official forecasts say that 1.5 million Swedes will develop cancer from other causes during that period.

Mr. Tamplin, writing in the Stockholm daily Dagens Nyheter, said leukaemia would be only one of the consequences of the accident, but that it would be the first cancer to manifest itself.

"Biological data show that the exposure of one million people to radiation of one millirem per year leads to two cancer deaths a year after 30 years," he said.



IJLTC WINS CASE: 'Eid Al Fayed, director general of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company (IJLTC), announces on Saturday that an arbitration committee has awarded the ownership of some 400 trucks and garages and equipment in a dispute with a West German company (Story on page 3)

CBJ warns against deposits with money-changing firms

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) said Saturday that banks and financial institutions operating in the Kingdom were in solid and sound financial standing but warned citizens from depositing money with money-changing companies.

In a statement carried by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, the Central Bank said that some licensed money-changers "are still violating money-changing regulations and laws by receiving deposits from citizens as current accounts or cash deposits in return for agreed upon interest."

The Central Bank had previously defined to money-changers as well as their customers the scope of operations within which money-changing companies are allowed to work, the statement said.

"The Central Bank repeats its warning that accepting deposits in

any form, dealings in gold markets and other valuable metals by money-changers or others is illegal because it entails great dangers and huge losses for citizens," it said.

The Central Bank said that a licensed money-changing company has recently suffered financial troubles as a result of illegal operations. It added that these financial troubles have "rendered the company unable to fulfil its commitments towards its customers."

The official who did not mention the company by name was apparently referring to Saliba and Rizk Shukri Rizk company which currently suffers debts estimated between JD 12 million and JD 18 million, according to banking sources.

Co-owner of the company, Mr. Saliba Rizk, was found dead on Thursday with a bullet in his head outside his home in the Abdoun area.

The presence of a revolver near the body and a suicide note att-

ached to his clothes indicated it was a suicide case. The note said he had despaired of life because of his financial trouble. Police were investigating with several people including a number of Mr. Rizk's employees, customers as well as relatives. They said they did not rule out foul play.

The Central Bank official said in the statement that the company he was referring to had "limited commitments to Jordanian banks, which are covered by sufficient guarantees." He added that most of the company's commitments were "to citizens who dealt with the company directly."

"The Central Bank draws the attention of citizens that the responsibility and the outcome of dealing with money-changers would be shouldered by those who deal with them and that any claim of rights resulting from these deals will be subject to relevant laws and

(Continued on page 3)

Dhaka resumes publishing poll results after 48-hour silence

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh officials broke a 48-hour silence on Saturday to announce more results of Wednesday's parliamentary elections, which have been marred by allegations of widespread poll rigging.

The election commission said it had approved the announcement of results in 18 seats out of the 116 withheld on Thursday because of disturbances at some polling centres on polling day.

Bangladesh Television said in a special bulletin that 11 of the seats were won by the government-backed Jatiya Party, three by the opposition Awami League, two by independents and one by the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami Party.

The Jatiya Party still trailed the opposition and the independents by 92 seats to 109 out of the 201 so far declared for the 300-seat parliament. The Awami League had 58.

Chief Election Commission Justice A.T.M. Maswood told reporters he had ordered fresh polling in some of the remaining 98 constituencies where violence had

disrupted voting.

The 48-hour silence caused sharp reaction among the opposition leaders, who claimed the government was trying to manipulate the results because it was running far short of a two-thirds majority.

President Hossain Mohammad Ershad needs such a majority to endorse his four years of military rule and ratify the proclamations by which he took power to avoid a possible sedition charge.

Lieutenant-General Ershad told foreign journalists on Friday he was confident the new parliament would endorse his rule "in its own interest, so that its own legitimacy is not questioned."

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed demanded re-polling in 100 seats where, she said, the election was marred by wanton violence and ballot-rigging.

At a protest rally in Dhaka, she accused the home minister, Major-General Mahmudul Hasan, of masterminding the rigging of the vote in favour of the Jatiya Party.

Fourth U.S. space failure this year disclosed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Authorities have confirmed that a U.S. space agency research rocket that had flown successfully 120 consecutive times misfired over the New Mexico desert two weeks ago in what was the fourth American space launch vehicle failure this year.

The government, whose space programme is under pressure because of the explosions of recent explosions of the much larger Titan and Delta rockets and the space shuttle, did not announce the April 25 failure of a Nike Orion rocket carrying a pollution-sampling device.

Confirmation of the New Mexico misfire came as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced on Friday that it is asking independent experts to oversee the

redesign of the solid booster rocket joint that is thought to have caused the Challenger space shuttle to explode last Jan. 28, killing its crew of seven.

The agency also said that while a redesign team has begun to consider a number of design options, it will not make a final selection until the presidential commission investigate the explosion has issued its report and recommendations. That is expected early next month.

In response to questions from AP on Friday, the latest malfunction was described by Debbie Bingham, a spokeswoman for the U.S. army missile range in White Sands, New Mexico, and by Dr. Edward C. Zipf, a geophysicist of the University of Pittsburgh, who was conducting an experiment measuring pollution in space for

NASA.

"This was very rare. I think this particular series of rockets, the so-called Orion family, had flown 120 times and this was the first failure," Dr. Zipf said in a telephone interview. "This system of rockets has been flying for about six or seven years."

The Nike rocket, which dates back to the early 1950s, was developed as a ground-based missile against aircraft. It was used in different military versions until the last one was retired last year from Nike Hercules batteries in Europe.

NASA has been using the surplus, solid-fuel Nike booster in combination with another solid-fuel, military surplus rocket, the Orion. In the configuration that failed last month, the rocket and

No word on Amal-PSP reaction to rightist truce offer

BEIRUT (Agencies) — There was no word on Saturday whether the Shiite Amal movement and the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) had accepted an offer by their main rival, the mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces" for a truce in the Lebanese civil war during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The "Lebanese Forces" militia made the offer to observe a "Ramadan truce" as Syrian President Hafez Al Assad relaxed his headline stance on a negotiated settlement to end Lebanon's civil war.

"The Lebanese Forces calls for a Ramadan truce throughout Lebanon... to create the proper climate for a Lebanese dialogue that would transform the truce into a permanent peace," said a statement issued by the "Lebanese Forces."

There was no immediate response from Amal or the PSP militias fighting the rightists in the 11-year-old civil war that has claimed more than 100,000 lives.

But police said there was a remarkable decrease of hostilities on the traditional war fronts along Beirut's dividing green line and in hills overlooking the capital Saturday.

The rightist initiative coincided with a statement by President Assad that his government would not oppose amendments to a Syrian-brokered pact to end the civil war.

The accord was signed in Damascus last Dec. 28 by PSP leader Walid Junblatt, Shiite leader Nabih Berri and "Lebanese Forces" commander at the time Elie Hobeika.

But President Amin Gemayel, a Maronite Catholic, rejected the accord on the grounds that it makes too many concessions to the Muslims and that Mr. Hobeika had no authority to negotiate for the Christians.

Hoss visits AUB to support closure in anti-kidnap protest

BEIRUT (R) — Education Minister Selim Al Hoss visited the American University of Beirut (AUB) on Saturday to express his support after teaching was suspended indefinitely to protest against attacks on staff and students.

A committee of AUB professors announced on Friday classes were being shut down after humanities professor Nabil Matar disappeared three days ago.

"We are continuing our suspension of classes until the return of our colleague Nabil Matar. We do not accept any compromise," a committee source told Reuters.

He said Mr. Hoss paid the committee a "support visit" on Saturday.

Prof. Matar, a 37-year-old Christian who lived beside the campus in West Beirut, vanished in what appeared to be the latest in a two-year series of attacks on AUB staff.

The attacks worsened last month when kidnappers killed a British professor and an American librarian and gunmen seized an Irish teacher and two Cypriot students. Two American staff mem-

bers kidnapped last year are still missing.

Some 200 AUB students demonstrated on Friday outside the office of Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who told them he would try to win the release of all kidnapped staff and students.

The As Safir daily said on Saturday contacts to free French and American hostages had made headway and results were expected shortly.

The paper quoted "sources acquainted with the question of the French and American hostages" for its report.

Ten French and five American nationals are among 22 foreigners missing in Lebanon and presumed kidnapped.

"Sources close to Damascus, and other sources close to Iran, share these expectations and information on a solution shortly to the question of the hostages," the paper said.

"Some even say agreement has been reached and what remained is the implementation and its timing," it added.

As Safir gave no further details.

INSIDE

No progress seen in Saharan peace talks, page 2
Jordan calls for UNCHS support for housing projects in occupied territories, page 3
Palestinians returning to Lebanon, page 4
Palestinians are aliens in their own homeland, page 5
Liverpool beats Everton 3-1 to bag F.A. Cup, page 6
U.S. panel assails administration's economic policy, page 7
Punjab government to seek more popular support, page 8

Expelled Libyan envoy criticises Spain, U.S.

MADRID (Agencies) — A high-ranking Libyan diplomat expelled by Spain said Saturday that Madrid was acting on orders from "U.S. imperialists."

The Spanish press devoted extensive coverage to connections between Col. Muammar Qadhafi's Libya and Spain's extreme right-wing, which reportedly has been seeking to destabilise the government with Libyan help.

"These are imperialist charges against Libya and our leader," the expelled envoy, Saad Ismail, said at Madrid's Barajas Airport shortly before he left for Casablanca, Morocco en route to Tripoli.

Accompanying him was commercial attaché Ramadan Rheim, whose expulsion was ordered two weeks ago.

On Friday, a government spokesman had erroneously stated that Mr. Ismail had already left the country. Mr. Ismail was identified by the Foreign Ministry as Libya's consul-general and the effective head of the Libyan People's Bureau in Madrid.

The government of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez on Friday ordered the expulsion of Mr. Ismail "for activities not in keeping with his diplomatic function."

It cited intelligence reports that the Libyan had met several times with Col. Carlos Meir de Rivera and accompanied him to Tripoli to meet with Col. Qadhafi to seek funds for an extreme right-wing plot against the government.

Col. Meir de Rivera, 56, was jailed Friday in a military prison outside Madrid on charges of seeking financial support to fund an extreme right-wing organisation to carry out terrorist acts to des-

ack countries harbouring U.S. military facilities in retaliation for any American strike.

Some 12,000 U.S. troops are stationed at four Spanish military bases.

Spain recalled its ambassador over Col. Qadhafi's threats but sent him back in the wake of the U.S. air strikes against Tripoli and Benghazi last month.

Mr. Ismail's expulsion reduced Libya's diplomatic staff in Spain to three. Madrid had already expelled one diplomat, two embassy clerks, five teachers and three students in line with European Community sanctions against Tripoli.

In Vienna, Austria has asked Libya to detail the duties of each member of its diplomatic mission in Vienna and will restrict the mission to its present strength, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday.

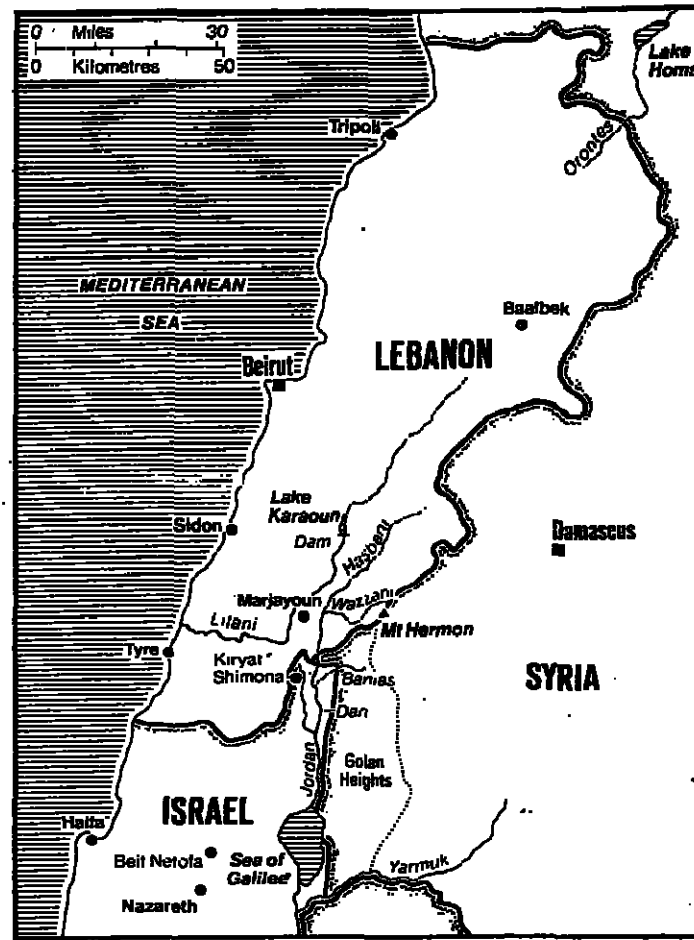
The spokesman said Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz told the head of the Libyan People's Bureau (embassy) this week that new diplomats would be accredited only as replacements for staff leaving Austria.

Mr. Gratz also asked for information on the tasks of each member of the mission.

The spokesman said there were about 20 Libyans at the bureau.

Several European countries have expelled Libyan diplomats over the past month, accusing Tripoli of backing guerrilla attacks in Europe.

The Austrian spokesman denied reports that Austria had called for a cut in the number of Libyan diplomats in Vienna.



Saudis urge peace, unity, brotherhood and dignity

By Fouad Gawhari
Reuters

BAHRAIN — Peace, unity, brotherhood, dignity — the call for Ramadan, holiest month in the Islamic calendar, rings out to a billion believers across the world.

Mindful of war, discord and disarray troubling Arab ranks in much of the Middle East, the rulers of Saudi Arabia, the seat of Islamic belief, sent that message to the faithful from Morocco to Indonesia, Saudi Arabia to Singapore.

In Lebanon, Falangist Forces urged leaders of the Sunni, Shi'ite and Druze communities to observe a truce in bloody civil strife that has torn the nation for 11 years, costing 100,000 lives.

And Gambia's President Dawda Jawara, head of an Islamic Peace Committee set up five years ago to try to end the Gulf war, called again on Iran and Iraq to lay down arms for the holy fasting month.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia sent cables to Muslims world-wide to congratulate them on the start of Ramadan, variously Saturday or Friday, according to when the new crescent moon was sighted.

His Minister of Information Gen. Ali Hassan Al Shaer said Ramadan should unify the ranks of Muslims, restore their dignity and vigour and encourage their righteous activities.

"The holy month will also help preserve peace and security and foster brotherhood and solidarity among Muslims in the world," his special statement said.

Muslims must fast from dawn to dusk until Ramadan ends with the three or four day holiday of Eid Al Fitr, marked by dawn prayers, alms for the poor and family picnics.

Jordan's Ministry of Islamic Affairs has urged fasting for the right religious reasons. Fasting and praying, a ministry statement said, was the way to victory and liberation of the (Israeli) occupied land and holy places.

Breaking the fast is a serious offence, close to blasphemy, in most of the Islamic World. Violators in Saudi Arabia face strict penalties including jail and flogging.

Foreigners in the kingdom have been warned they could be dismissed from jobs and deported if they eat, drink or smoke in public by day.

Restaurants and snack bars close by day in Bahrain and the other Gulf states where violators can face prosecution.

Iraq, at war with Iran since September 1980, is enforcing particularly strict measures this year. All nightclubs, bars, discos and liquor stores — previously allowed open at night — have been closed down for the whole of Ramadan, ninth month of the Islamic calendar.

In Egypt foreigners must produce a passport before they can be served with alcoholic drink.

Amal has upper hand in Tyre

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — In contrast to the rest of Lebanon, the sound of gunfire is rare in Tyre. Foreigners browse the boutiques and ancient Roman ruins of this Shi'ite Muslim capital of South Lebanon.

"If two shots are fired in the middle of the night, it is the talk of the town," said Hassan Siklawi, a journalist in his 20s.

Silence was not always the hallmark of life in the South, which has been deeply scarred by Lebanon's 11-year civil war and the three-year Israeli occupation that began with a 1982 invasion.

The main challenge recently has been Hezbollah, a rival Shi'ite group of extreme fundamentalists backed by Iran, and resurgent Palestinian commandos loyal to Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Thus far the winner of the behind-the-scenes power struggle has been Amal, the paramilitary organisation which acts as a self-appointed government for the region and has about 6,000 fighters, according to Western sources who demanded anonymity.

The evidence is in the streets, where larger-than-life posters of Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and flourishing banners with Islamic fundamentalist slogans have been removed in recent weeks.

Political graffiti is absent from the walls of the soccer stadium at the entrance to the city. Instead, there are freshly painted advertisements for downtown stores, which were crowded with Lebanese shoppers and United Nations soldiers on leave.

Amal (which means hope in Arabic) collects taxes, is building a school, supervises an unofficial port and enforces Islamic bans on alcohol, gambling and mixed bat-

ting in Tyre, a city of 50,000, and surrounding farming villages.

It is also responsible for most of the approximately 160 attacks launched in March and April against Israeli troops and allied militias of the South Lebanon 'Army' in a buffer zone north of the Israeli border.

The Amal militiamen, mostly local farmers, do not launch cross-border raids and try to prevent radical groups like Hezbollah from doing so to avoid Israeli reprisals which would endanger their villages and livelihoods.

Also unlike Hezbollah, the militiamen do not talk of forming an Islamic republic in Lebanon or driving out foreigners.

"I think Tyre and the area is an example for all of Lebanon. There are Christians, Palestinians and (Sunni) Muslims all living in security and quiet," said Daoud Daoud, a bearded former school teacher who is the head of Amal in South Lebanon.

"All the foreigners who come here are very safe and welcome," said Daoud, who half-jokingly invited a visiting American reporter to open an office here.

There are 5,700 peacekeeping troops and 300 United Nations civilian workers from 48 nations, including the United States, stationed south of the Litani River as part of the United Nations Truce Force in Lebanon (UNTF).

There are also an unknown number of Western volunteers working for the International Red Cross and other aid organisations.

In the national capital of Beirut, 80 kilometres to the north, nearly all foreigners have been evacuated after a wave of kidnappings of Americans, French and British.

Abdul Majid Saleh, a close associate of Amal leader Nabih Berri, said in an interview that the kidnappings were designed to

embarrass Amal, which is one of the groups responsible for security in mostly Muslim west Beirut.

"Amal is working hard to release those who are kidnapped," said Saleh, who blamed the kidnappings on Palestinian, Libyan and Lebanese leftist groups.

Travelling in South Lebanon means passing a half dozen checkpoints — manned by pro-Israeli militiamen, Shi'ite Muslims, Fijian and Nepalese peacekeepers — between the Israeli border and Tyre, 20 kilometres to the north. Despite assurances of Amal leaders, questioning at the checkpoints can often be hostile.

"Are you American, French?" a teen-age Amal gunman wearing a black neckerchief asked at a checkpoint south of Tyre. His tone implied that a positive answer would mean trouble. "Canadian," was the response.

U.N. spokesman Timor Goksel said the situation in South Lebanon was considered safe enough for soldiers to go on daytime liberty in Tyre, and a new supply base and liaison office was set up there in February.

Several Ghanaians were seen walking in the market on a recent afternoon. French and Norwegians were seen in the base.

However, two U.N. soldiers, a Ghananian and a Fijian, were killed and five others wounded during confrontations with Shi'ite militiamen in March at checkpoints. UNIFIL put up blast walls inside its headquarters in Naqurah to prevent suicide car bomb attacks and stopped sending supply convoys to Beirut last year.

"Because we are on a peacekeeping mission, we can't dig in and hunker down behind sand bags," said Goksel, who is from Turkey. "Peacekeeping means showing a presence and moving openly among the population."

No progress noted in W. Sahara talks

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A second round of U.N. talks on the Western Sahara dispute has been completed but with no sign of agreement, according to a statement issued on behalf of Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The statement issued by his spokesman Joe Sills said Mr. Perez de Cuellar and a representative of the chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) met representatives of Morocco and the Polisario Front, which claims the territory.

Abbas Al Kisi led the Moroccan delegation and the Polisario leader was Mahfoud Ali Beiba, while representatives of Algeria

and Mauritania had observer status and were kept informed of the separate talks.

Medoune Fall, minister of armed forces for Senegal, which has the OAU chairmanship, represented President Abdou Diouf.

The statement said, "the secretary general of the United Nations and the current chairman of the OAU have decided to meet in New York on May 28, 1986 to take stock of the situation in the light of the first two rounds of talks. They will inform the parties of the next phase."

The statement also said, "during the talks the parties reassured the secretary general and the cur-

rent chairman of the OAU that they would continue to co-operate in pursuing the efforts undertaken as part of their good offices, in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 40/50, with a view to finding a just and lasting solution to the problem of Western Sahara."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar held a first round of so-called proximity talks with the two sides last month. Western Sahara is a former Spanish possession that now is controlled by Morocco, which withdrew from the OAU when Polisario was recognised as a full member.

Iranian opposition MP visits U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A leading opposition figure in Iranian politics has been granted a visa to visit members of his family in the United States, but will not meet

with U.S. government officials, a State Department spokesman has said.

Ibrahim Yazdi, a member of the Iranian parliament and a former foreign minister who opposes his country's war with Iraq, "applied for and received a visa to visit his family," said Michael Austrian, a State Department spokesman.

Asked whether Yazdi would be talking with government officials, Mr. Austrian said, "No."

Mr. Austrian confirmed the visit only after a woman identifying herself as Iran Fatemi of the Young Constitutional Mon-

archs of Iran, revealed that Yazdi had come to the country.

Miss Fatemi, who in a call to the Associated Press said her group supports the claims to power of Reza Pahlavi, the exiled son of the late Shah, asserted that Yazdi was here to meet U.S. representatives.

State Department officials, speaking on condition they not be identified, said they had never heard of Miss Fatemi or her group. They also expressed dismay that the visit had been made public and would not reveal which family members Yazdi was visiting, in what city or for how long.

Envoy denies U.S. behind Berlin blasts

BERLIN (Agencies) — The American ambassador to East Germany on Friday condemned as "downright lies" an article claiming U.S. intelligence may have been behind two West Berlin bomb attacks.

U.S. Ambassador Francis Meehan protested the article in a letter to Herbert Naumann, chief editor of the East German Communist Party daily Neues Deutschland.

The article, a dispatch by the Soviet News Agency TASS, was published by Neues Deutschland Friday.

"Contrary to allegations in the article, no international news organisation of any standing has published information suggesting that the CIA or any other American or Western organisation is involved in the bombings," Meehan wrote.

However, the ambassador wrote, there is "extremely strong evidence" linking the Libyan People's Bureau (embassy) to the April 5 bombing of the La Belle Discotheque in West Berlin.

Mr. Meehan said the publication of the article "provides no factual information, but rather publishes distortions and downright lies, (and) makes an informed dialogue between our countries all the more difficult."

Copies of Mr. Meehan's letter were released to news media by the U.S. embassy in East Berlin.

U.S. officials charged that Libya orchestrated the La Belle attack through its embassy in East Berlin.

A week earlier, the offices of the German-Arab Friendship Society in West Berlin were bombed. West Berlin police have arrested three Arab suspects and say the Syrian embassy in East Berlin may have been involved in the German-Arab society attack.

Both Syria and Libya have denied involvement in the Berlin attacks.

The TASS article, headlined "the dirty fingers of the CIA," said reports were surfacing in the "international press" that the bombings were organised by "the secret services of the United States."

News agencies point to orchestration by the American CIA together with the Israeli Mossad (intelligence agency), the article said.

Mr. Meehan has been ambassador to East Germany since last summer. He previously was U.S. ambassador to Poland.

Weinberger defends raid

Meanwhile in San Francisco, California, Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger said Friday

the number of bombs that mistakenly hit civilian areas during last month's U.S. raid on Libya was a very small percentage of the total dropped.

The Defence Department acknowledged Thursday that several bombs missed their military targets in Tripoli and Benghazi.

Mr. Weinberger, speaking at a press conference before delivering a speech on terrorism to a citizens' group, said the Pentagon did not know the reason for the stray bombs.

"We really don't know, but it is a very, very small percentage, a small number," he said.

He said considerable damage was done by the "98 to 99 per cent of the ammunition that did hit its target. I suppose it's characteristic that the only thing reported is the one or two per cent that did not hit the targets."

In his speech to the World Affairs Council of northern California and the Harvard Club of San Francisco, Mr. Weinberger said: "The fact that a tiny fraction of the bombs... missed the target should not detract from the highly professional and very brave skills of our military."

Mr. Weinberger warned that the "right against terrorism" will be a long one and will test the moral fibre of the West.

Qatari ruler's brother shot and wounded

LONDON (R) — The brother of Qatar ruler Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani was shot and seriously wounded in the leg during a family dispute, diplomatic sources have said.

They said Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Thani was rushed to Britain in a Qatari private jet Thursday and whisked off to a north London hospital, where he is receiving treatment.

Officials at Wellington Hospital Friday refused to comment on his condition. "All questions regarding his excellency should be put to the Qatari embassy," a spokeswoman said.

The Qatari mission was tight-lipped about the incident earlier this week.

Rumours two days ago that Information Minister Issa Ghanim Al Kowari had been wounded in a shooting incident in Doha were denied by the minister.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-14		20:00	Evening Show
PROGRAMME ONE		21:00	Evening Show Summary
15:00	Koran	21:05	Evening Show
15:30	Cartoons	21:10	Evening Show
16:00	Scientific programme	21:15	Evening Show
16:30	Arabic series	21:20	Evening Show
17:00	Programme on Ramadan	21:25	Evening Show
17:30	Ramadan contest	21:30	Evening Show
18:00	Arabic series	21:35	Evening Show
18:30	Religious programme	21:40	Evening Show
19:00	Ramadan puzzle	21:45	Evening Show
19:30	News in Arabic	21:50	Evening Show
20:00	Arabic series	21:55	Evening Show
20:30	Islamic programme	22:00	Evening Show
21:00	Tomorrow's programme	22:05	Evening Show
21:30	Arabic series	22:10	Evening Show
22:00	News Summary in Arabic	22:15	Evening Show
22:30	Arabic play	22:20	Evening Show
23:00	Arabic play	22:25	Evening Show
23:30	Arabic play	22:30	Evening Show
PROGRAMME TWO		22:35	Close down
17:00	Champs Elysees		
19:00	News in French		
19:15	Champs Elysees cont.		
19:30	News in Hebrew		
20:00	News in Arabic		
20:30	Life and My City		
21:00	With Menzotti to Mexico '86		
21:10	The World Challenge		
22:00	News in English		
22:30	Ramadan in the West		
23:00	The Master		
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 9560 KHz. SW. Tel: 774111-14		5BC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1413 KHz	
07:00	Light Music	07:00	07:00 News 07:30 Cap Final Highlights 07:45 Financial Review 07:55 Reflections 08:00 World News 08:09 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Flinders and Ronald Reagan 08:45 America of Love 23:00 World News 23:09 24 Hours: The Pleasure's Yours 12:00 World News 12:09 British Press Review 12:15 Science in Action 12:45 Living with Drought 13:00 News Summary: Short Story 13:15 From Our Own Correspondent 13:30 Religious Service 14:00 World News 14:09 In the Meridian 14:15 News About Britain 14:30 News Summary: Play of the Week 16:00 World News 16:09 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Sports Round Up 16:45 Tony Mynat Request Show 17:00 News Summary 17:30 Pride and Prejudice 18:00 Radio Newscast 18:15 Concert Hall 19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary 19:15 1A Your World 19:25 Journey Through History 19:45 Light Music 20:00 World News 20:09 Reflections 20:15 The Meridian 20:45 Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsweek 21:30 Hitville USA 22:00 News Summary: Clavell 22:15 Ronald Reagan 22:45 America of Love 23:00 World News 23:09 24 Hours: News Summary 23:30 Sunday Half-Hour 24:00 News Summary: Short Story 00:15 The Pleasure's Yours 01:00
07:00	Light Music		
07:30	Newsweek		
08:00	Morning Show		
18:00	News Summary		
19:00	Pop Session		
19:30	News Summary		
19:45	Pop Session Cont.		
20:00	News Summary		
20:15	Pop Session Cont.		
20:30	News Summary		
20:45	Pop Session Cont.		
21:00	News Bulletin		
21:10	Instruments		
21:15	Science Report		
21:30	Concert Hour		
21:40	News Summary		
21:50	Instruments		
22:00	Old Favourites		
22:10	Listeners' Choice		
22:20	News Summary		
22:30	Concert Hour		
22:40	Newsweek		
22:50	Concert Hour		
23:00	Date with a Star		

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lawzi cables Sudanese speaker

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi has sent a cable to Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil congratulating him on being elected speaker of Sudan's constituent assembly. In his cable, Mr. Lawzi wished Mr. Khalil success in his new post and progress and prosperity for the Sudanese people.

Senate speaker receives Romanian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Saturday received Romanian Ambassador in Amman Andrei Cervencovici. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations, especially in the parliamentary field.

Dudin meets with UNRWA staff

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin Saturday received a delegation representing staff committees at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and listened to requests submitted by the UNRWA employees. The minister expressed readiness to cooperate with all the concerned parties to solve any future problems related to improving the efficiency of UNRWA staff.

Tractor overturns killing worker

IRBID (J.T.) — A 46-year-old man, Hosni Abdullah Bashayreh, from Kufur Assad in Irbid Governorate died after a tractor overturned on him while he was working in the town, according to a story in the local Arabic daily newspaper Al Dustour. The body was taken to Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid and the concerned authorities have started investigations into the incident, the report added.

Man found dead in basement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Public Security forces have found the body of a 43-year-old man in a deserted basement room in Hittin Camp (Schneller camp). The man, identified as H.S.A., was found hanging by a nylon rope with two bricks under his feet, a report in the Arabic daily newspaper Sawt Al Sha'ab said on Friday. The man's wife told investigators that he left the house on May 6 to the mosque but did not return home. She also said that he had been suffering from a mental disease and that he has tried more than once to commit suicide.

Britain expels Libyan diplomats

(Continued from page 1)

dropping his girlfriend at the airport. The Foreign Office declined to comment on the report.

The bomb, which was discovered by El Al guards, would have blown up the plane and its nearly 400 passengers and crew, according to police.

A series of meetings between Foreign Office officials and Mr. Haydar ended with the summoning of the ambassador Saturday to be told by Mr. Fergusson that the three diplomats had to leave in seven days.

They were identified as Zaki Oud, Ahmad Abdul Latif and Mounir Mouna. They are listed in the diplomatic register merely as attaches.

The expulsions reflected the hard line Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is taking on "terrorism" in her country. She permitted the U.S. aircraft that bombed Libya to take off from bases in Britain, and

has expelled 22 Libyan students as alleged subversives.

At the Tokyo summit of industrial powers Mrs. Thatcher took the lead in pressing her fellow Europeans for tougher anti-terrorism measures.

The latest move came as U.S. and Israeli officials were tending to shift the focus on international guerrilla violence onto Syria, rather than just Libya.

President Reagan has threatened action against Syria, Iran or any other country implicated in "terrorism," not just Libya, U.S. Vice President George Bush has said. "We are convinced that their [Syria's] fingerprints have been on international terrorist acts."

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin claims he has evidence that Syria initiated and organised the El Al bomb plot.

Syria has said it is the victim of "an international smear campaign" to justify a U.S. and Israeli attack on it.

IJLTC wins arbitration case over land transport dispute with W.German firm

AMMAN (Petra) — The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company (IJLTC) has won an arbitration case over a dispute with the West German (MAN) company concerning the ownership of lorries, garages and equipment. IJLTC Director General Eld Al Fayed announced here Saturday.

He said that an arbitration committee ruled that MAN should hand over all the equipment, the garages and the lorries to IJLTC. The decision is retroactive and takes effect as of January 1984, Mr. Fayed said.

The ruling stated that MAN should pay compensation to IJLTC for damages incurred due to MAN's failure to implement the work it had been entrusted in

accordance with the contract.

According to Mr. Fayed, the dispute dates back to 1981 when the two companies signed a contract under which MAN undertook to supply, operate and maintain 400 lorries for two years and under which IJLTC agreed to provide a piece of land for the garages and a loan to help start the maintenance work.

He said by the end of 1983, before the contract expired, MAN stopped all operations paralysing the fleet of lorries and forcing IJLTC to refer the dispute to an arbitration committee in November 1983. IJLTC is now demanding that MAN pay JD 15,600,000 in compensation, but MAN has been demanding that

the IJLTC pay JD 27 million, Mr. Fayed continued.

He said that the arbitration committee held 47 sessions, the last of which was on May 9, and issued its ruling in favour of the IJLTC. The ruling, Mr. Fayed said, will encourage the IJLTC to push ahead with plans to offer better services in land transport operation between Jordan and Iraq and to expand the company's operations, activities and its fleet of lorries in the near future.

Mr. Fayed said that the arbitration committee comprised Mohammad Ali Farhan as chairman, and Raef Nijem, Abdul Tawwab Hawish, Kamal Al Dajani, and Dr. Abdul Latif Al Shawaf as members.

Jordan requests UNCHS support for housing project in occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has submitted a draft resolution to a conference by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) calling for the implementation of a housing project for Palestinian people in Israeli-held territory, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud who headed Jordan's delegation to the conference held in Istanbul, Turkey.

Mr. Hmoud said that the proposed project entails building homes and helping the Palestinian inhabitants carry out small industries and training workers in technical skills.

The delegation, whose members stayed behind to attend the rest of the conference, will present another draft resolution requesting that UNCHS set up a regional training centre in Amman to offer advanced training to people involved in housing projects and the construction business, he said.

National housing programmes

The minister said that the delegation submitted a comprehensive report on national Jordanian housing programmes between 1975 and 1985 and implemented by the public and private sectors. The delegation also showed the conference a documentary on Jordan's experiences in building and projects which have used cheap materials for construction purposes. Low cost building materials are being processed and produced by the Building Research Centre at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

According to the minister, the conference discussed UNCHS's activities and programmes in the past year and the subject of manufacturing low-cost building materials. The conference, which will continue until May 16, was addressed by Mr. Hmoud who outlined Jordan's housing projects and schemes implemented by the Housing Corporation, the Hou-

sing Bank and Urban Development Department.

In his speech, the minister referred to Israel's drive to confiscate Arab land in the occupied territories. He said that more than half of the West Bank has now been seized by the Israelis on which they are building Jewish settlements.

Salt marks traffic day

SALT (Petra) — Balqa Governor Mijhem Al Kreishah attended a celebration held Saturday in the governorate in cooperation with the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (JSPPA) on the occasion of the country's celebrations of World Traffic Day.

Mr. Kreishah delivered a speech at the outset of the celebration in which he urged the public to shoulder their responsibilities in this field. He also paid tribute to the government's recent decision to reconsider some traffic laws and to impose the strongest penalties on careless and reckless drivers.

Salt Mayor Abdul Razzaq Nsour and the director of Balqa health department and chairman of the JSPPA in the governorate, Dr. Abdul Halim Heyasat, also delivered speeches in which they called on the public to practise good road sense and to avoid the causes of accidents. They also pointed out the health, social and economic problems resulting from road accidents.

At the end of the celebration Mr. Kreishah distributed cups to the police department. Salt government hospital as well as Salt and Okba Ibn Nafi secondary schools. He also presented prizes to a number of traffic wardens and good drivers.

Imported foodstuffs free from effects of radiation, ministry statement says

AMMAN (J.T.) — All food supplies, including meat, dairy products and fish imported from other countries, are safe and have not been affected by radiation, according to Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher. He said in a statement carried by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the ministry has taken all precautions to ensure that imported food supplies are quite safe from radiation and fit for human consumption.

The statement did not name the countries of origin of the foodstuffs. Jordan imports meat and frozen food from several East European countries which reported higher radiation levels after the April 26 accident at the Soviet nuclear plant at Chernobyl. However, the radiation levels are not expected to pose a health hazard

through food. Dr. Muasher said that importers supplying food commodities to the Ministry of Supply have been requested to produce certificates of origin guaranteeing that the food shipments coming from countries close to areas affected by nuclear radiation are free of all radiation effects.

The Ministry of Supply also subjects samples of all imported food to tests at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to ensure public safety, the statement said.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Supply has announced that the supply situation in the Kingdom is good and that sufficient food supplies, especially fresh meat, continue to arrive as planned.

Altogether nine plane loads of fresh mutton arrive in Jordan every week in addition to seven planes carrying beef and veal during the month of Ramadan, a ministry spokesman said. He said that each plane carries between 38 to 40 tonnes of meat and he added that the ministry plans to increase the amount of imported meat in accordance with the market's needs.

Irbid prepares to hold byelection

IRBID (Petra) — Preparations are underway for holding a bye-election in Irbid Governorate on June 19, to fill a seat in the Lower House of Parliament which fell vacant following the death of the late Na'im Al Tal.

Nomination of candidates has been fixed to take place within five days starting May 24 in accordance with a communiqué issued by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai earlier this month. Three prominent people in Irbid Governorate have already declared that they will be running for election. These are Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat, Mr. Abdul Rahim Ukur, a former director of Awqaf department at Kura, Yusuf Abdul Qader Al Tal. These three are running for election for the first time.

According to Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, polling stations — which will be divided into two groups, one for males and the other for females — will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. on June 19.

He said according to the law a candidate should be Jordanian, at least 30 years of age and must not have been convicted for an immoral offence.

Ministry opens registers for pilgrims travelling to Mecca

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has started the procedure of registering names of Muslims who wish to perform this year's pilgrimage to Mecca — the Hajj. Registration of pilgrims will continue until May 21, according to a ministry spokesman.

The spokesman said that a ministry mission has already left for Saudi Arabia to supervise arrangements for accommodating Jordanian pilgrims during their stay to perform religious rites at the holy places.

The mission, led by the ministry's Under Secretary Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, includes several officials and who will also supervise the implementation of an agreement signed between the ministry and a number of Saudi contractors for providing accommodation for the pilgrims.

A JD 12 fee is being collected by the ministry for each pilgrim to cover the cost of the services the ministry is offering.

Police arrest 14-year-old boy for stealing items from cars

AMMAN (J.T.) — Police in Amman have arrested a 14-year-old student from Marj Al Hamam and charged him with robbing several cars in Amman, according to a story in the local Arabic daily newspaper Sawt Al Shaab.

Public Security sources said that the case began on Nov. 23, 1985 when a Yugoslav national working as a director of an Amman-based company complained to the police that his car parked near Al Khalidi Hospital in Jabal Amman, had been broken into and that a case, containing money and private documents, had been stolen.

front of the maternity hospital in Jabal Amman, and that he found the windscreen broken and some documents missing.

Public Security sources added that on Jan. 8, 1986 a woman living in Um Uthana complained to the police that when she returned to her car, which was parked in the maternity hospital street, she found the windscreen smashed and some money, a passport and other private documents stolen.

The police investigated the case and later apprehended the 14-year-old boy in the golds market in downtown Amman. After interrogation, the thief admitted that he had committed the car robberies and that he had also stolen suit cases.

Organisations take farm machinery where it is needed most

By Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Farmers in the Madaba region, one of the main wheat growing areas in Jordan, may not constitute the largest proportion of the agricultural sector but they are an important one. Jordan presently produces only up to 30 per cent of the total average 450,000 tonnes of wheat consumed in the country per year, according to Dr. Bassam Snobar, adviser at the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) and member of the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Jordan.

There are great variations between single harvests in Jordan, depending largely on the seasonal rainfall, so that efforts to increase and improve domestic cereal production are high on the government's list of priorities.

Several studies have been carried out between 1968 and 1983

in Jordan by various foreign research institutions and the Ministry of Agriculture on the effects of mechanisation in cereal farming, the application of fertilisers and weed control. The results of the studies indicated that yields could be doubled if the most advanced and locally adapted equipment and methods were used. One study showed a possible net return increase from JD 7 to JD 10 per dunum if modern seed drills were used.

Another study by the University of Goettingen in West Germany pointed out that long-term positive changes of the socio-economic situation of the farm families could be expected if their income rose significantly. Benefits would include better education for their children, improving child and health care and better psychological well-being in general. However, most farmers lack the funds to invest in farm mechanisation and the materials which would produce these higher returns and, Dr. Snobar added, technical know-how still has to be acquired by the majority.

At present, most farmers in the rainfed areas of Jordan have access to local contractors, who rent out farm machinery and operate it in the field.

Machinery contractors

This practice originated in the Jordan Valley when the cultivation of the former desert land became possible by irrigation with water from the East Ghor Canal. The contracting system moved from the valley to the rainfed areas of the highlands but the heavy farm machines were best suited to large flat fields with a continuous water supply. In the highlands, there are rather different natural conditions, Dr. Snobar said. Soils are shallow and



More efficient farming with tractors and machinery from the Madaba station (J.T. file photo)

comparatively light, land is often sloping and water supply by seasonal rainfall is generally scarce.

The JCO machine station at Madaba, was set up and is run by financial assistance from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). Now in its third season, it offers agricultural machines and services to local farmers. GTZ contributed JD 138,400 for equipment in the first year and pays for maintenance, running costs and staff, while the Jordanian government provided the land and the buildings for the station. There are other institutions affiliated and also financially contributing to the station, namely the Australian Dryland Farming Project, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) project.

Shallow ploughing

The machine station project's principal aim is to give small farmers the opportunity to hire chisel-ploughs, seed drills, tractors and other equipment which have important advantages over the traditional methods, said GTZ project-adviser Hans Peter Feddersen. The chisel-plough, for instance, loosens the soil without turning it over as the traditional mould-board plough does, so that the soil is less disturbed and moisture is retained.

The farmers, however, seem to be aware of the disadvantages of heavy and deep ploughing as they frequently remove the plough's shields in order to reduce the soil-turning effect, Mr. Feddersen added.

Apart from ploughing, spraying and harvesting equipment, the machinery for sowing wheat and some fodder-barley constitutes the station's main and most asked-for activity. These seed drills place the seeds in the soil at an optimum depth and distribute them evenly and the station's most sophisticated chisel-seed drill even combines cultivation, sowing and fertilising in a single process. Using these methods, the yields can be expected to be much higher than those of fields sown by hand.

Station Manager Awad Heisa said that the demand for their services has been steadily rising since 1982 when 718 hectares were sown compared to 2,050 hectares sown with seed drills in 1985. The latter figure includes the work done by two similar, but much smaller stations near Karak and Irbid run under the same JCO-GTZ cooperation frame work. The total land cultivated by the Madaba station during the 1985 season was 3,600 hectares between Wadi Mujib, the airport and the town of Madaba — the land further west becomes too sloping for the station's machines.

Spraying facilities

The demand for spraying the crops with herbicides is also rising, according to Mr. Feddersen. This measure alone is most effective and can lead to considerable increases in yields, but he is also concerned about the environmental aspects of the abundant and sometimes improper application of pesticides in general. A possible alternative to chemical attack could be adapted crop rotation, he added.

Although the GTZ-JCO machine station project's target group are small farmers, it was also considered advisable to include large farmers. In fact, the work during the first season was carried out entirely on large farms, Mr. Feddersen said. There were two main reasons for this: large farmers were generally more open-minded towards innovations and could afford to take economic risks, and the station's machines work more economically on large single pieces of land than on small scattered fields. He stressed that this enabled the project to offer cheaper rates to small farmers and that the number of small farmers serviced had been steadily rising since the start of the project.

The machine station's relations with local contractors, who also offer agricultural equipment for hire, could be expected to be somewhat strained, but both Mr. Feddersen and Dr. Snobar said that there was no direct competition between the two kinds of institutions. On the contrary, contractors were slowly adopting the new methods introduced by the station. For instance, they started replacing worn out mould-board ploughs with chisel-ploughs. On the other hand, in the case of similar services offered by the machine station and by contractors, the station even charged higher rates, but as its work was of better quality, farmers were willing to pay, Mr. Feddersen concluded.

There are plans to set up four more machine stations during the present five-year plan (1986-90) and these are to be located in the eastern parts of the country.



The large open areas in the Madaba region are more suitable for mechanised agriculture than the fragmented land areas in the intensively-farmed Jordan Valley (Petra photo)

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Sunday's Economic pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Major issues emerge over development plan

The discussions over the draft of the new five-year economic and social development plan earlier this week were very lively and useful.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, promised that all points and objections raised during the two-day meeting would receive the full attention of the working committee in order to have the final revised version of the plan reflect the contributions made by those participating in the discussions.

Several issues surfaced and were subject to controversial views. Among these issues were: Jordan's foreign debt, high unemployment, capital output ratio of investments, privatisation and the role of private sector, social contents and distribution of income and wealth, the necessity of serious adherence to the plan, ac-

countability, decision making and follow-up of implementation based on accurate monitoring.

A participant warned against too much exposure to foreign debt. He called for the reduction of estimates for foreign sources of funding, including not only borrowing but also estimates of private transfers and foreign investments. Fresh borrowing, he insisted, should not exceed repayments of present loans.

The prime minister responded positively to this point. He made it clear that the government is fully aware of the dangers of excessive foreign debt. He pointed out that even after new borrowings the ratio between debt service and the proceeds of exports of goods and services would not exceed 14 per cent. The plan sets the

red line at 15 per cent, which is relatively low and safe in comparison with other Third World countries.

The problem of a high unemployment rate was also raised. The plan projects a rate of unemployment in 1990 as high as 9.2 per cent, which some participants thought outrageous.

One of the planners pointed out that high unemployment is partially a price for targeting a low rate of inflation, as low as 3 per cent. Another planner related unemployment to the prevailing high real wages, and the public mood towards even higher wages and allowances in real terms. The economy can provide jobs for all, he stated, but at lower wages.

A major controversial objection was raised against the assumption of a high capital

output ratio. The plan assumed a rate of almost 7 to 1.

The participant objecting to this rate argued that the plan may have drawn on the experience and performance of the previous five years, which he thought was not representative, due to heavy investments in failed projects, sometimes resulting in negative value added.

If the capital output rate is adjusted to 5 to 1 (which he thought was a conservative estimate), all other problems will be solved. We can achieve a higher rate of growth, create more jobs while at the same time cutting down on our investment needs and external borrowing.

The introduction of such a modification to the plan will alter the picture substantially.

If the feasibility of the amendment is economically controversial, it is absolutely feasible politically.

Privatisation also drew some heated discussions. The government was urged to translate its announced pro-private sector policy into a larger role to the private sector, which was assigned only 44 per cent of the investment programme.

The prime minister clarified the meaning of the government pro-private sector policy. He said that the private sector will be given the full opportunity to act without being subjected to any competition from the public sector. However, the prime minister reiterated that at no time was the government anti-public sector. The public sector, he said, has a major role to play. It should fill the gap that the private sector may hes-

itate to approach because of high risk or low return considerations.

The social content of the plan was repeatedly stressed. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who presided over the discussions, took the lead in calling for remedies to the pockets of poverty, not through charity but through the concept of the productive family. 4,170 small projects will be introduced in the plan costing between JD 5,000 - 50,000 each, which will help families in the rural areas to become economically productive.

An agreement developed over the importance of accurate information, timely monitoring and follow up of the implementation, stressing accountability in carrying out the plan.

Yet another warning

THE CHERNOBYL nuclear power plant disaster along with the recent string of U.S. rocket failures are spectacular examples of technology gone wrong. By no means the first of mankind's handiwork to blow up in his face, they nevertheless confirm the perils of 20th century man's reliance on science and technology as the panacea for all the problems he has created on this earth. The warning comes at a good time. In the United States, President Reagan continues to exhibit an unbridled faith in the power of high technology to win the cold war with the Soviet Union through the vehicle of the Strategic Defence Initiative, or "Star Wars." Though many of America's best scientists and defence planners warn that SDI will never work and threatens the stability of nuclear deterrence, billions of dollars have already been allocated, and other nations are signing up so as not to be left behind.

As for the Third World, well, it is a different matter. French philosopher Régis Debray recently noted that Third World peoples now crave most of all "God and computers" to help them through the trials and tribulations of the struggle for development.

What is missing in this fascination with the promise of technology is a necessary focus on its weakest link — man himself. Even the best and most reliable high-tech equipment requires organisation, dedication to responsibility, and common sense on the part of the men and women who operate it. But in the rush to save the world through the application of the latest technology to every problem, political needs dictate that common sense will be left behind. And disaster beckons.

Warnings like the space shuttle Challenger and Chernobyl are never simply ignored. The space shuttle will not fly again until many organisational and technical difficulties are overcome. The Soviets will no doubt apply their experience with the Chernobyl plant to improving the safety of similar nuclear facilities operated elsewhere in the Soviet Union. What is unsettling is that grave events such as these were required to stimulate the necessary attention to the long-ignored human and mechanical flaws responsible for such calamities.

Every young child, before he reaches the age of six or seven, gets burned once or twice, and learns not to play with fire. Fortunately, most children learn this lesson before burning down the house. Let us hope that the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union, and others dedicated to the promise of high technology, learn their lesson this time. For they are playing not just with fire, but with atoms, and their house is a very big one indeed.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S. arms and twists arms

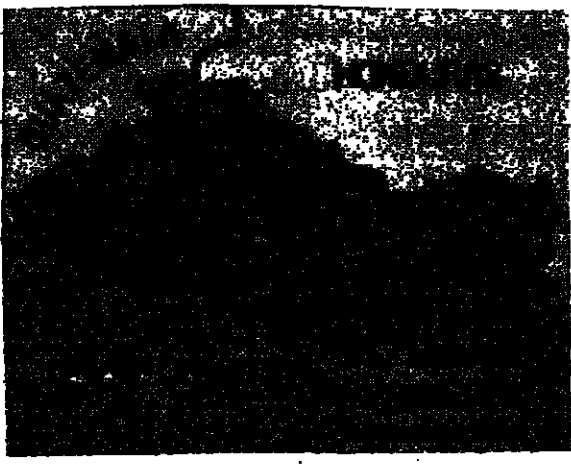
OBSTACLES that aborted American arms sales to Jordan and Saudi Arabia are a true translation of extremist American stands designed to make our Arab region an arena for ambitions, threats and an eventual domination and hegemony. The decision not to sell arms to the Arabs was complementary to America's total disregard to discussing the Middle East issue at the Tokyo summit and turning the attention of all its allies to the question of terrorism. Leaving the Middle East conflict unresolved and refraining from selling the Arabs weapons for defending themselves can only encourage Israel to maintain its occupation of Arab land and so further contribute towards complicating the problem. The continued Israeli occupation of Arab territory constitutes a grave danger to the Arabs and to the whole world. The danger is still here and has of late been emerging more clearly with the recent Israeli threats against Syria. A statement by Shimon Peres that Israel does not intend to attack Syria can never rule out Israel's evil intentions against the Arabs because aggression is an integral part of Israel's basic policies. But what is more important is that the Israelis continue to get backing and encouragement for their aggression on the Arabs from the United States. The United States can refuse to sell arms to the Arabs but can never impose hegemony on them in any way.

Al Düstour: Useless among nations

THE rejection by the United States Congress of an arms deal with Saudi Arabia points to determination on the part of American extremists to remain hostile towards the Arabs in general and Saudi Arabia in particular. The rejection was accompanied by hostile statements against the Arabs in Congress, something which has its own significance. The Arabs are to blame for the situation in that they have been showing weakness and disunity and gradually losing credibility abroad. Congress members are known to be fully in support of Israel, and Arab weakness has encouraged these members and encouraged Israel to maintain its aggressive policies against us all the time. There is no chance for a weak Arab Nation to obtain its requirements from other nations and there can be no place for a feeble nation to find a place among world nations. The Congress members voted against the deal well-knowing that their United States interests will never be affected, otherwise they would have given the subject another thought. Congress members are certain that the Arabs can never agree on a meeting to take proper measures against their enemies and therefore, too weak to act against United States interests, or even protest against American actions. The Arabs should realise that their strongest weapons lie in their solidarity with which they can confront their enemies and their plots.

Sawt Al Shaab: Make food first

THE Arabs have failed on different occasions to obtain American weapons and all their requests for arms were rejected. The rejection was clearly a sign that all attempts are being made to impose hegemony on the Arabs. But the Arab World with its vast human and material resources can make the weapons it requires for its own defence. Why should the Arabs insist on obtaining American weapons when they can themselves make them? Why can't the Arabs rally together, implement the Arab League defence pact and defend Arab territory together against any attack? We need the weapons to defend ourselves and to protect our rights and interests, therefore we should make every possible effort for obtaining weapons and even make them ourselves for this purpose. The vast potentials at the Arab Nation's disposal can help us defend ourselves if we are wise in exploiting these resources in an effective manner. An Arab decision is now required, and when it comes it can bring about change in the whole situation.



2 years after elections Duarte's star is fading

By Bernd Debusmann

Reuter

SAN SALVADOR — Two years after being elected president of war-torn El Salvador, Jose Napoleon Duarte's political star seems to be fading and his popularity dwindling.

Duarte has long been under attack from the far right and the far left but now some of the most bitter criticism levelled against the 60-year-old president is coming from those in the moderate centre who voted him to power on May 6, 1984.

"Duarte cheated us," said Carmen Menendez, owner of a handicrafts stall at San Salvador's bustling market. "He said one thing and did another. I voted for him but I wouldn't do it again."

Such views are spreading among the working and lower middle class which formed the bulk of electoral support for Duarte and his Christian Democratic Party. He won the elections from the far-right Republican National Alliance (Arena).

"Duarte's power base has been eroding," said a European ambassador. "There are increasingly frequent manifestations of discontent, the unions have been staging strikes. There is resentment, anger, disillusionment and disappointment."

Opposition politicians and foreign diplomats blame his position on his failure to fulfil the promises of an election campaign whose main platforms were "peace and work."

Despite more than six years of brutal civil war in which an estimated 60,000 people died, no end is in sight to the fighting between Duarte's U.S.-backed army and rebels of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

To try and salvage an economy pushed to the brink of ruin by the war, Duarte last January announced an austerity package which won universal condemnation, from the right to the left, and more than doubled the price of some basic goods.

"The economic package is a disaster," said Hugo Carrillo, head of the conservative National Conciliation Party (PCN), in a recent interview with Reuters. "These measures hurt everybody, but most of all they hurt the poor."

"Duarte has lost much of the support that took him to the presidency," said Alfredo Cristiani, head of Arena. "His biggest problem is the economy and he has taken measures we think are wrong. They are very unpopular across the board."

Following traditional International Monetary Fund (IMF) prescriptions, Duarte's economic package provided for a 100 per cent devaluation of the national currency, the colon, and cuts in subsidies for a range of products. Many diplomats here now feel that Duarte is facing more danger from the legal opposition and the trade unions — once the backbone of his support — than from the FMLN.

To back up such views, analysts cite the activity of the National

Union of Salvadorean Workers (UNTS), a trade union federation formed two months ago as a response to the president's economic measures.

The UNTS claims a membership of 300,000 and has been relentless in its criticism of Duarte.

A full-page advertisement in the newspaper La Prensa Grafica, for example, listed a wide range of goods that have increased sharply in price, since the economic package was announced: bread by 100 per cent, meat by 37.5, aspirin by 100, cement by 54.6, tyres by 78.

"For the worker this means more hunger and fewer possibilities to satisfy the family's requirements for health care, education and housing," the advertisement said. "The cost of living has risen by an average of 60 per cent while wage increases for some workers stand at 15."

"... Are these the (promised) improvements for the people?" In a wide-ranging interview with the Mexican newspaper Excelsior, Duarte recently described himself as a man walking on a knife's edge, threatened by the left and by the right.

But both foreign and Salvadoran analysts say one of the most significant aspects of Duarte's presidency has been his apparent failure to consolidate his hold over the moderate centre which helped him into power.

A widespread perception that Duarte is a puppet of Washington, denied by the president and energetically fostered by the opposition, appears to have contributed to his decline.

In an extensive analysis of Duarte's first 18 months in office, the Jesuit-run University of Central America (UCA) described Duarte as a leader who "occupies the presidency on Washington's terms" — an assessment shared by many non-U.S. diplomats here.

Duarte's international image as an honest democrat, fighting excesses from both the left and the right, helped persuade the U.S. Congress that El Salvador was a worthy recipient of American largesse, now running at more than \$1.5 million a day.

"At the behest of the U.S. embassy (in San Salvador) and the (U.S.) Agency for International Development (AID), Duarte has adopted programmes that ... have come at the expense of social reforms which Duarte promised to his mass constituency," the UCA analysis said.

It suggested that Duarte's interest in cultivating that constituency might be limited. "With no elections in the offing, Duarte does not need to galvanise his mass supporters to get out the vote, and their active backing may seem a dispensable asset."

Such neglect, if true, could have dangerous consequences and change the face of El Salvador, some Western diplomats say.

"What could happen here, given very widespread economic discontent, is that the extreme left could hijack the labour movement," one ambassador said. "This would give the men with the guns the political base they now lack."

Return of the Palestinians to Lebanon

By Abd Al Sattar AL-Laz

From the Lebanese newspaper Al Safir

TALK of Palestinian arms returning to Lebanon has become an exercise in certainty: it is neither doubted nor disputed. But the word is no longer of the Palestinians going back to Beirut and the south with their weapons and provoking the sort of clash which any such signal would have produced in the period immediately after the Israeli invasion.

This Lebanese "indifference" embraces — in various degrees naturally — those who from the first moment of their armed presence in Lebanon placed the Palestinians in the category of "national" enemies, and those who in no circumstances could be accused of hostility towards the Palestinians and their cause. There are a number of reasons for treating the Palestinian return as an inevitable fact, among which may be:

— The illusion of a ready-made solution to the Lebanese crisis, lacking only the exodus of Palestinian arms from Lebanon to put it into effect, has been shot down along with all the settlement plans in all their forms and origins that have been put forward since that exodus.

— The fact that certain Lebanese political forces have reached a dead end has moderated their customary kneejerk res-

ponse to the subject of the Palestinians. In fact, these forces may see in the Palestinian return a breathing space which will allow them to reshuffle the political cards, and hence an opportunity to expand their room for political manoeuvre which, for a time has appeared severely restricted.

This reckoning up of some of the reasons for the Lebanese "indifference" is no defence of the return of the Palestinian presence, which it must be said will result only in further entangling a crisis which is at root extremely complex. Quite apart from this Lebanese view of the matter, however, such additional complication may at the present time be sought after by the Palestinian resistance, for whom the return to Lebanon is without doubt a positive development. Especially as they are seeking to recover some of the positions — it would be difficult to talk of recovering all of them — which they had commanded throughout their effective history.

The base which Beirut was for the Palestinian resistance up to its departure at the end of August 1982 constituted the whole time a state of defiant rebelliousness which allowed the Palestinians, with all their internal differences, alliances and factions, to act with freedom, to be ready to proclaim, with or without occasion, the slogan of "the independent Palestinian national decision."

In another sense, Beirut was the firm, material base from which the PLO surveyed the Arabs and wrested from them, in Rabat, recognition of its legitimacy and the

goodwill, the analysts said. Pairs has appointed three deputy chief ministers — a Kadazan, a Chinese and a Malay — in an effort to prove that the PBS was multi-racial, the analysts added.

Christian Kadazans form a third of Sabah's 1.2 million population, Muslim Malays and Bajaus another third, ethnic Chinese some 20 per cent and small tribes form the rest. Muslims from all main races account for over half the total.

"Muslims, who are a significant community in the state, must be appeased by the PBS to ensure they do not become restless and try to disrupt the PBS administration once more," one analyst said.

Others said the PBS should bring political stability to the state by ensuring that its government was not weakened by further defections in the state assembly.

Previous Sabah governments have been plagued by crossovers which Pairs has pledged to outlaw. Proposed legislation says an assemblyman wanting to defect must resign his seat.

The analysts said the PBS faced an uphill task in trying to revive the recession-hit oil and timber-based state economy and bring back international investor confidence hit by the unrest.

"Against a background of falling oil and primary commodity prices, it will be tough for the PBS to stimulate the state economy but it must do its best to motivate Sabahans to ride out the current economic storm," one economist said.

In this election, PBS had the advantage of overwhelming support from the Chinese, who control much of the state's economy, and cooperation from this community could help spur economic growth, the analysts said.

Pairs has said PBS had applied to join the federal coalition government for vital federal patronage.

Kuala Lumpur, 1,000 km to the west across the South China Sea, controls security, development, oil revenue and immigration to the state, on the northern tip of Borneo.

Prime Minister Mahathir rejected an earlier application by PBS to join the coalition as he said it had to prove that it was genuinely multi-racial.

The federal government has congratulated Pairs on his victory and analysts said PBS was now likely to be accepted into the coalition.

soleness of its representation of the Palestinian people. From it it jumped to the podium of the United Nations, and entered the marketplace of international diplomacy as an effective factor with a voice of its own. The starting off point was always Beirut. But this solid base slipped from under the resistance as a result of the Israeli invasion. Actual rebelliousness crumbled away, and the PLO was turned into no more than a clamorous noise shuttling between capitals...

This is the background against which they're talking today of Palestinian arms coming back to Lebanon. Weighing up the gains and losses, we say: We have been victims for 11 years. We're peering upwards looking for a light in an increasingly dark emptiness. This return won't help us, but will only complicate our crisis further. We're afraid of talk of more bloodshed, especially as the Palestinians have borne a heavy share of the deep wounds inflicted between 1982 and 1986.

They have been victims for 38 years. They're striving for a right lost in an increasingly dark world. Their return might restore some spirit, but after a while it would bring only more destruction. We're afraid of talk of more bloodshed, especially as so much hatred has accumulated between 1982 and 1986, and no one has convinced us that the Palestinian resistance has changed. It is a dilemma of victims. But are we and they the only ones facing it? — Middle East International, London.

LETTERS

Indeed, how sad!

To the Editor:

I READ with great interest your editorial entitled "how sad" which appeared on May 8 issue of the Jordan Times.

No doubt, the situation in our region is as explosive as you described it, thanks to the irresponsible behaviour of those who consider themselves the guardians of democracy and who justify their dastardly deeds with the claim of "fighting the scourge of terrorism wherever it originated."

From your editorial, I understand you sort of accept the excuse offered by Washington for warning Syria but you condemn the public U.S. declarations which have heightened international tension and raised the spectre of a new devastating war erupting in the Middle East. Your editorial, as I understand it, validates the U.S. premise, but complains that "for them to make the issue an obsession and a flashpoint for new wars, in this region and worldwide, is something that has to be stopped at all costs."

Patterns in the American and Israeli behaviours (in their long history of aggressions), showed us that for the whole charade to have any effect, it has to be hyped up into an obsession, to convince the public opinion (at least at home) with the "necessity" for "a pre-emptive blow" against Syria, or for that matter, any other potential threat to Israel in the region. The least such a campaign would achieve is to intimidate its target, create havoc and divert the attention from undesirable issues.

As we sit still in the Arab World, Israel proceeds to build its "case" against Syria with an American blessing to justify the forthcoming "pre-emptive strike." We had similar threats to Jordan in the period between June 1985 and October of the same year when Israeli leaders publicly threatened to use military force against Jordan for its support of the PLO. The campaign ended with failure because it did not gain enough momentum or credibility and perhaps because Washington was not immediately ready to give the green light. Instead, Israel attacked the PLO headquarters in Tunisia.

It has to be understood here that the ongoing campaign against Syria was initiated by Israel and was then concerned with Syria's attempts at reaching military parity with Israel. Today, terrorism has provided Israel, with the help of the United States, a better material for their campaign aimed at intimidating the region, one step at a time. The campaign was only adopted and not initiated by the United States. The fear today emanates from the possibility that the ongoing campaign may gain enough public support in Israel and the United States which would almost certainly result in some kind of a military confrontation.

The worst thing about the whole affair is that the campaign against Syria, under the cover of combating terrorism, is beginning to gain momentum and credibility in the West as was demonstrated at the Tokyo summit meeting and subsequent declarations.

We have to understand that Israel is capable, with the help of its many supporters in the Western media, to go as far as labeling the Pope himself a terrorist if that would suit their purposes. Kurt Waldheim is a good example of what the Western media is willing to do with a little push from Israel. This is the same media which chooses today to ignore the terrorist past of Israeli leaders who introduced modern terrorism to the world.

Omar Khalil
P.O. Box 3340
Amman.

Self in life

Palestinians: Aliens in their own homeland

By John P. Egan

John P. Egan is an American freelance writer specializing in American Middle East policy and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. His work has appeared in the Chicago Tribune, Middle East International, the Journal of Palestine Studies, and other magazines and journals.

I CROSSED the King Hussein Bridge from Jordan to the Israeli-occupied West Bank with a European friend. Outside the Israeli customs and security building we began a conversation with other Europeans, and we all decided to share a taxi to Arab East Jerusalem.

"But we must wait for our other friend," one of the Europeans said. "She's still inside — in the security office."

Fifteen minutes later Samiha joined us, and on the road to Jerusalem she apologized for the delay. Because she was an Arab, the customs and security checks were more thorough, she said. It made no difference whatsoever that she had been born in Britain and held a British passport. To the Israeli officials, an Arab was an Arab.

Three weeks later, I was about to cross the bridge and re-enter Jordan. A mile-long line of taxis waited at the side of the road. They had not yet been given permission to advance to the Israeli customs and security building. "They want to go to Jordan," our taxi driver said, "but they are Arabs, so they must wait." It was 8:30 in the morning. Now I understood why my friends said that crossing the bridge would take an entire day.

On the way to the bridge our taxi passed through an Israeli checkpoint. Since there were no Arabs in the taxi — only Americans and West Europeans — we were waved to the front of the mile-long line. We passed through customs without a hitch.

During my time in Israel and the occupied Arab territories I spoke

with Palestinians who recalled many incidents of discrimination and hostility at the hands of the Israelis, soldiers and civilians alike. There were also stories of progressive Israelis who came to the defence of Palestinians.

For example, one Arab resident of Jerusalem, had been threatened with deportation by the military authorities. It had been alleged that he was a Palestinian resistance leader in the occupied territories — a "terrorist," in Israeli terminology. Left-wing Israelis formed a committee which sought to block his deportation. The deportation hearings had been held in secret, and the Arab Jerusalemite had been unable to confront his accusers or challenge their evidence.

Law in the Service of Man, the West Bank affiliate of the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists, has shown repeatedly that due process of law is rarely accorded to Palestinians accused of "crimes" against "Israeli security." In fact, the West Bank legal system has consistently been manipulated by the Israeli occupation forces to serve their own interests. Questions of "justice" and "equity" have been completely subordinated to the needs of the occupiers.

One thought of Kafka's *The Trial*, of Argentina's "dirty war" against the left in the 1970's. The professed exigencies of "state security" have been used to rationalise so many atrocities and indignities in all corners of the globe. Why should Israel be any different? Having joined the family of nations, Israel should be granted the right to be as violent and hypocritical as any one of its peers — like Chile or the Philippines, under Ferdinand Marcos, for example.

I went to the Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip for a day. A friend from Jerusalem agreed to show me the camp and help facilitate discussions with the residents. One must see Jabalia to



Palestinians shopping at a marketplace in one of Gaza's many refugee camps (File photo)

understand the desperate conditions of the Palestinians who live there — words and photos are unable to convey the grinding poverty of daily life in Jabalia.

Goats nibbled on a large pile of uncollected garbage. It had been there for one month. The stench of animal excrement was unbearable in certain areas. Flies were everywhere. I was told that there were over 100 cases of dysentery now, and that during the winter there had been dozens of cases of pneumonia. Small troughs ran this way and that, carrying wastewater from the houses.

My friend said that Israeli soldiers had been attacked so often in Jabalia that they only enter it now in fully-armed groups of four or five. I noticed that the main road had been widened — presumably by force — to accommodate an American-built Israeli armoured personnel carrier.

We spoke to several families in Jabalia. One family had two sons working in the Arabian Gulf, but the money they sent home was hardly enough to support their large family. Two other sons worked as day labourers in Israel, earning about \$5 per day. The father was ill, but he spoke of yet another son who might be able to attend an American university if he received a scholarship. That son spent much of his time studying.

"Every day the soldiers come through Jabalia," the father said as we turned to leave. "Be careful."

I asked the father if there was some danger. He said he was speaking to my friend: "A camp resident had been arrested while he showed a Western journalist around Jabalia. He was charged with incitement and sent to jail."

Incitement? Meir Kahane, an elected Israeli public official, is allowed to spew forth his anti-Arab racism, allowed to call for the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and the occupied territories while a boy who shows a journalist Jabalia camp is arrested for incitement?

We began to walk through the camp. I had taken several photos before we were told that soldiers were coming. I told my friend from Jerusalem to run and I started walking in the opposite direction. Within a few minutes, five soldiers had gathered around me, all asking questions at once.

We all went to military headquarters, where my passport number was written down and I was asked some questions. Who did I speak with in the camp? Who showed me around? What was I doing in Jabalia? Did I not know it was dangerous to go there? What magazine did I write for? Did I know any Arabic? Did I take any photos? My camera bag was sear-

ched again, and I was released.

As I was leaving the building, a soldier said that I should keep my passport in a pocket with buttons. "Our friends outside are very quick with their fingers — you could lose your papers," he said. "What good would an American passport do an Arab?" I asked. "I have a totally American name and face." "It makes no difference," the soldier replied laconically. "You can never be too careful with our friends outside."

The next day I travelled to Jerusalem. As our taxi left Gaza, we came to a checkpoint. Two lines of cars formed. On the left were cars with yellow license plates. These cars belonged to Israelis, and they were not stopped. On the right were cars from the occupied territories. They had different colored license plates, and on each was a Hebrew letter indicating the town in the occupied territories that the car's owner was from. Our taxi went to the right.

Our passports were briefly checked, and I was reminded of a conversation I had had with a West Bank university official a few days before. I had asked him if he thought the occupation would turn into a South African-style apartheid. "It already has," he exclaimed. "I can't spend the night in Tel Aviv — it's illegal for Palestinians from the occupied territories to stay overnight in Israel. Cars registered in the occupied territories have different license plates than those registered in Israel. My identity card is different from the Israeli identity card. Apartheid is here!" Our taxi eased out of the che-

ckpoint and headed towards Jerusalem. My friend's assessment came several weeks after Meir Kahane led an anti-Arab pogrom in the Jewish city of Afula, located within Israel's pre-1967 borders. Two Israeli school teachers had been murdered near the city, and although several Arabs had already been arrested, Kahane was determined to seek vengeance.

"Jewish blood shall not go unavenged," screamed Kahane as his supporters beat Arabs and Jews who looked like Arabs. Kahane's thugs then used iron pipes and crowbars against Arab cars and shops in Afula.

I agreed with my friend: the foundation for apartheid was already in place. Could the relentless spiral of violence be far behind? Will the terrible violence we see today in South Africa be repeated in Nazareth, Ramallah or Gaza in the not-too-distant future?

There is a cumulative cost incurred when an indigenous people are dehumanised and ruled by foreigners using brute force. Israeli officials had recently begun to speak in more concerned tones about the "security situation" and "peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs in Eretz Yisrael," diseased euphemisms for Israel's continued subjugation of the Palestinians and theft of Palestinian land.

Angered by Israel's draconian occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and frustrated by Israel's and America's refusal to consider resolving the Palestinian question through negotiations, Palestinians in the occupied territories have increasingly turned to resistance

attacks against Israeli settlers and soldiers.

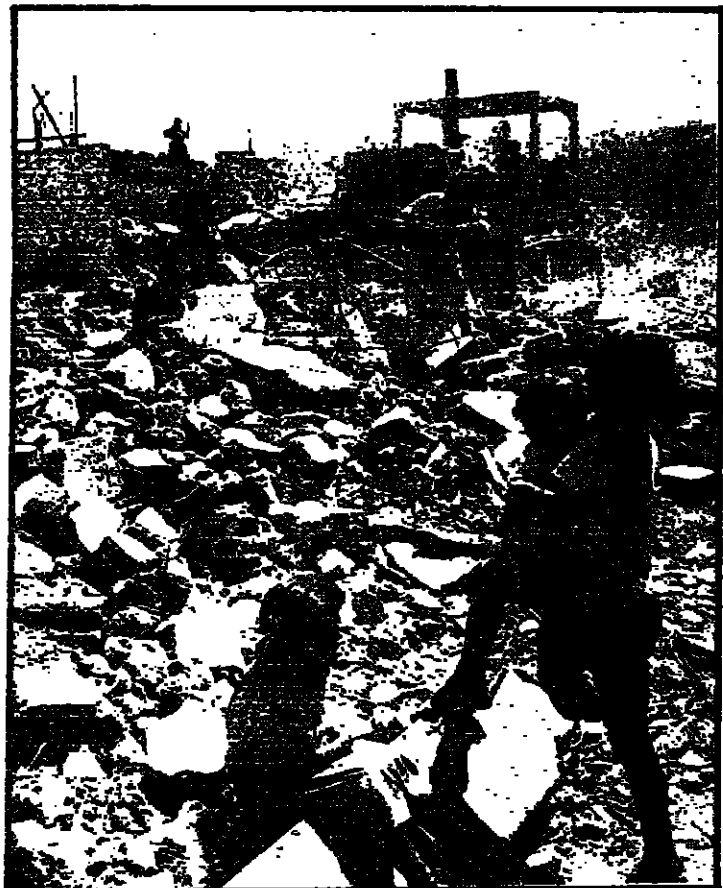
"Today the child throws stones, but tomorrow it will be a petrol bomb," said a Palestinian political official in Amman. It was a flat, simple statement of fact; he expressed neither regret nor advocacy.

Equally devoid of emotion, a young man in a West Bank refugee camp said: "This area was taken by force. It will be regained by force."

I spoke with many Palestinians in Amman, Damascus, the West Bank and Gaza who agreed with the general proposition that armed resistance attacks would raise the cost of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. This rising cost could force Israeli officials to reconsider their opposition to the creation of an independent Palestinian state in those areas.

South Lebanon showed that a sustained indigenous resistance could hasten the end of Israeli occupation. Palestinians agreed that there are serious differences between south Lebanon and the occupied territories, but they noted that those under occupation did not expect success overnight. "It will be a long-term thing, this resistance," a Palestinian from Gaza said. "But in the end, we will win. I have no doubt about it."

I sadly concluded that the future would be grim for Arabs and Jews alike. Perhaps a South African-style conflict in the Holy Land was still avoidable, but time was running out. Feeling both anxious and helpless, I entered Jerusalem, the international city of peace.



Homeless Palestinian children help clear the rubble after an Israeli air raid on their camp in Lebanon (File photo)



The main entrance to Dheishah camp sealed with cement blocks and barbed wire with Israeli soldiers on roof tops (File photo)

Spanish daily celebrates its first 10 years

By David White
The Financial Times

IT LOOKS like News International's "fortress" at Wapping in London all over again.

From the outside, the editorial headquarters and photocomposition centre of El Pais, out in the eastern backwoods of Madrid, has an odd military aspect: heavily guarded, with chicken-wire on the fence, a metal detector at the entrance. The difference is that the defences are not against union organisers but at their request, following a 1978 petrol bomb when the newspaper was in its infancy. The attack, in which one employee died, is now part of the El Pais legend.

El Pais, which completed its first decade last Sunday, has long since become a Spanish institution. In its third floor office, editor Juan Luis Cebrian has half-a-dozen journalism-prize plaques on a table. "And I keep the ugly ones in here," he says, opening a door into another room lined with trophies.

These are just his own awards — the newspaper's are on display at a birthday exhibition in the crystal palace in Madrid's Retiro Park.

At 41, Mr. Cebrian, who wears monogrammed shirts and drives in a bullet-proof car, is still young for the editor of a major European newspaper, but he already has 10 years behind him in the job.

Starting six months after Gen. Franco's death, the newspaper has accompanied Spain through its democratic transition, fervently defending its new constitutional system in moments of crisis. In a

Spain's ruling socialist party is more worried about voters staying away from the polls in the General Election on June 22 than about losing votes to other parties, Mr. Alfonso Guerra, the Deputy Prime Minister and chief Socialist campaign co-ordinator, said this week, writes David White.

The last General Election in 1982 brought the highest participation rate — almost 80 per cent — of the three parliamentary contests which Spain has had since

the end of the Franco regime. However, abstention in this year's election is expected to increase because the odds appear to be so heavily in favour of another Socialist win.

Mr. Guerra said that the party would have to work its campaigning timetable around the fixture dates of the World Cup in Mexico, in order to avoid clashes.

The Socialists have set a provisional campaign budget of Pta 1.75bn (\$8.2m) and are planning "several thousand" meetings. Although the party will not have its programme ready until the second half of this month, Mr. Guerra said it would seek to be "constructive" and not to rest on its laurels after four years of government.

Mr. Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, would restrict his participation in the campaign to weekends, so as not to interfere with the running of the government, he said.

In other respects, he confesses to having copied extensively from foreign examples. El Pais took its approach to news writing from the New York Times and British manuals, the use of its columns as an intellectual forum from Le Monde, its layout from the West German press, and a few other ideas, such as its "economy and labour" section, from Italy's La Repubblica.

Mr. Cebrian regrets the weakness of the competition, which is bad for his own journalists and which has led rivals to resort to petty attacks on El Pais. "Very old-fashioned," says Mr. Cebrian, who likes to see El Pais as a modernising influence on the press as a whole.

El Pais runs five editions, printing in Madrid and Barcelona, seven days a week. It also publishes a weekly international edition with a print-run of 24,000-25,000.

newspaper. Vestiges of the "self-censorship" of the late Franco years have surfaced here as in the rest of the Spanish press, for instance, in reporting about the armed forces after the coup attempt in 1981.

Alarmed by a sense of the power the newspaper wields, journalists may tend to suppress or play down certain items.

In the most explosive of recent issues, the NATO referendum held in March, El Pais avoided taking sides. Senior editorial staff, Mr. Cebrian admits, were mostly against being in the alliance.

"But I did not think a leading newspaper in a country which has just joined the EEC could come out for a 'no' to NATO." The newspaper did not like the referendum, but did show pre-occupation about the political consequences if the government lost. "And that in some measure helped it to win."

Against this inhibiting awareness of the newspaper's role, "we have fought to liberate ourselves from the respectability others have conferred on us." It is,

Encounter at Wadi Rum

By Liliane Ayoub

MY interest in the stars does not usually extend from the occasional stare of amazement at the greatness of the universe, or at times, in search of three perpendicular stars which in my youth I secretly labelled as "mine." But Halley's once-in-a-lifetime visit was ample reason to trigger my curiosity.

After a long day of over-indulgence in the water-sports of Aqaba and after being totally exhausted, sunburnt and too sleepy to wish for anything but a comfortable pillow to rest my head on, I still decided to join my friends late as it was, to go to Wadi Rum and witness Halley's appearance.

Off we went, following a busload of Halley enthusiasts. We reached Wadi Rum around 1.30 a.m.

"Turn off the lights, your car lights," said several voices. As we did, it was pitch-black, the moon being hardly a thin, faint crescent. The stars never looked so shining, so intense. My eyes slowly got accustomed to the darkness. And I walked in the fluffy sand. I could hardly avoid the wild thorny bushes scattered here and there.

Automatically we all formed a group around a gentleman who was giving explanations about the locations of different stars. With awe, I followed his indicating hand. "Do you see that star? Yes, that bright one, it is Venus. Over there, you can see Scorpio."

The professor, as I thought he might be, went on: "Look further down, look at the top of that hill, further left, you see a shining star. Look a bit more up, can you see something hazy? Well, this is Hal-

ley."

As I took the binoculars, first I saw a collection of bright stars and then I ran through a hazy spot and there it was, different from the other stars. It was like a round ball, surrounded by a large circumference of haziness. "What about the tail? It has no tail," someone gave an explanation: "At this time, the tail is in front of it. This is why we can't see the tail. We might do later on, as it moves."

After some time, everybody had seen the comet again and again. The group scattered back and forth. From one of the cars, a song filled the air, unmistakably Dire Straits style. What a beautiful contrast with the primitiveness of the spot.

Someone called: "Did you see Saturn? This guy with the telescope has spotted Saturn." In turn, we looked through the telescope. Indeed, it looked clearly visible, surrounded by its rings. "Show us how Halley looks from the telescope" asked someone. The guy focused the telescope on the object we had previously identified as being Halley. It did not look at all as we saw it through the binoculars. Rather, it looked like a cluster of faint dots, grouped together.

"Are you sure this is the same star we were looking at?" Yes he was sure. But then he added "I think this is a distant galaxy."

Confusion reigned. Was it or was it not Halley? None could really tell. Even the "professor" had his doubts. But later, he confirmed that it was Halley, since it was exactly at the same spot where the comet was meant to be.



Tenzing Norgay: Hero of May 29, 1953

Tenzing Norgay; Everest conqueror

KATHMANDU (R) — Tenzing Norgay, a simple Sherpa from a remote Nepal village, carved himself a niche in history when he and Sir Edmund Hillary became the first men to climb the world's highest peak, Mount Everest.

"A little below the summit Hillary and I stopped. We looked up. Then we went on... we went on slowly, steadily. And then we were there. Hillary stepped on top first. And I stepped up after him," Tenzing said later.

The date was May 29, 1953. The pair shook hands at 8,848 metres. Then they thumped each other on the back until, even with oxygen, they were breathless.

"It was 11.30 in the morning. The sun was shining and the sky was the deepest blue I have ever seen. Only a gentle breeze was blowing..."

Hillary took photographs while the Sherpa, a devout Buddhist, offered prayers of thanks.

Hillary went on to become a major public figure as New Zealand's high commissioner to India while Tenzing lived most of the rest of his life in the relative obscurity of an Indian hill station teaching climbing.

Tenzing never learned to read or write and his feelings about the Everest ascent were written down for him in two autobiographies. "At that great moment for which I had waited all my life my mountain did not seem a lifeless thing of ice and rock but warm and friendly and living. She was a mother hen and the mountains around were chicks under her wings."

He was born in a remote village in Nepal called Thami just 32 km from the mountain which made him famous. He was never exactly sure when.

He knew he was born in the year of the hare, which fell in 1902, 1914 and 1926 and presumed it was 1914. From the crops at the time, he thought it was probably May.

Tenzing spent his early years as a yak herder in the pastures high

above his native village. In 1932 he migrated to Darjeeling in the east Indian state of West Bengal to make his fortune carrying loads for climbing expeditions.

In the 1920s and 30s Everest was closed to mountaineers from the southern Nepalese side and climbers used to set out from Darjeeling to approach it from Tibet.

Tenzing went on six expeditions to Everest before the successful 1953 attempt.

Stronger and bigger built than most Sherpas, he was soon singled out as one of the best, and most ambitious.

"He regarded himself most seriously as a climber, a representative of the Sherpas who should go to the top... and a fine climber he was, or he could never have been chosen," said one contemporary climber, the late Wilfrid Noyce.

Hillary established himself not only as the foremost climber of his race but as a mountaineer of world standing," said Sir John Hunt, leader of the victorious expedition.

Hillary himself wrote: "His flashing smile was irresistible and he was incredibly patient."

Tenzing was awarded the British George Cross, the Star of Nepal and other decorations for his ascent of Everest. At least two roads in Britain were named after him.

But he was never to climb the mountain again. His later expeditions were in less taxing terrain such as the Swiss Alps.

In 1954 he started a new career with the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute in Darjeeling, a body whose foundation was inspired by the conquest of Everest. He retired in 1976 after 20 years without a pay rise.

In January 1985, he spent weeks in a New Delhi hospital with a lung infection but was still able to quip to reporters: "It's not because of the high altitude. For me, I get sick at low altitudes."

Liverpool clinches double with 3-1 F.A. Cup victory

LONDON (R) — Liverpool became only the third team this century to complete a classic English double when they came from behind to beat Everton 3-1 and win the Football Association (F.A.) Cup at Wembley Saturday.

Two goals from their prolific Welsh international striker Ian Rush and one from Craig Johnston clinched their historic triumph after England World Cup striker Gary Lineker had put Everton ahead in the first half of the first cup final between these two great rivals from the same city.

Liverpool, who won the league championship last week, thus joined Tottenham and Arsenal in the record book and, by providing a memorable second half of attacking soccer, went some way towards erasing the tragic memories of Brussels 12 months ago when 39 fans lost their lives after riots before their European Cup final against Juventus.

The win was Liverpool's first in the F.A. Cup since 1974 and provided their remarkable player-manager Kenny Dalglish with the missing medal in his glittering collection in only his first season in charge.

While Rush was Liverpool's hero, snapping up his goals with the venom and relish of an underdog vulture, their match winner was Danish international midfielder Jan Molby who shrugged off a lethargic first half to display magnificent strength and skills

after the interval as Liverpool swept to victory.

Molby's perceptive passing supplied two of the goals and he would have found the net himself if goalkeeper Bobby Mimms had not spread himself bravely near the end when Everton, on all-out attack, were exposed by a familiar red tide of Liverpool counter-attacks.

In many respects, however, Everton were unlucky. For nearly an hour they had smothered Liverpool with a well organised display of compact teamwork and they showed real purpose in attack through the pace of Lineker.

But once Liverpool raised their game in the second-half — and overcame their own alarming defensive aberrations — Everton were never quite able to match their rivals and turn their third successive final appearance into victory.

Liverpool had opened the first half as if determined to win the cup in short time. Johnston broke clear in the first minute to be blocked and Rush sent a looping header three minutes later.

With Lawrenson and Molby exerting a strong physical presence through the middle, Liverpool controlled the play for a spell and twice MacDonald was almost sent clear after raking passes from Belgin and Molby.

The England striker's pace clearly embarrassed the Liverpool defence in which Dalglish had dispensed with a sweeper, choosing instead to strengthen midfield with MacDonald at the expense of Gary Gillespie.

Dalglish's fears were realised in the 27th minute when Reid again put Lineker away. This time he outpaced Hansen and, after Grobelaar had parried his first shot, scored the simplest of goals and his 40th of the season from the rebound.

Liverpool did not recover until the 57th minute when Molby stroked an oblique but penetrating pass to Rush on the edge of the penalty area. Rush drew Mimms and rolled the ball into an empty net.

Six minutes later, Johnston scored Liverpool's second. Molby again provided the opening by breaking through the packed Everton defence and cutting back a firm cross in front of goal. Dalglish lunged and missed, but Johnston made no mistake at the far post.

Everton gambled by sending on their substitute Adrian Heath for defender Gary Stevens in the 71st minute, but it backfired. Sensing further pickings, Dalglish and Rush conjured further chances before the Welshman mercilessly struck his second goal.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Aberdeen drives nail in Hearts coffin

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — Aberdeen won the Scottish F.A. (Football Association) Soccer Cup Saturday by beating Hearts 3-0 at Hampden Park. Two goals by John Hewitt and a third by substitute Billy Stark took the cup to Aberdeen for the fourth time in five years. Aberdeen led 1-0 at half time. The result meant Hearts, which had been on course for the domestic cup and league double, ended the season without a trophy, having been pipped for the championship last week by Glasgow Celtic.

Coe leads off season with 1,500 metre win

LONDON (R) — Olympic 1,500 metres champion Sebastian Coe of Britain opened his track season with a victory for his club Haringey in a British athletics league match at Birmingham Saturday. Coe, aiming for Commonwealth Games and European success this summer, won a 1,500 metres race in three minutes 45.27 seconds.

Edberg to meet Borg in Osaka final

OSAKA, Japan (R) — Sweden's Stefan Edberg will take on his compatriot and five-times Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg in Sunday's men's final of a \$200,000 invitational tennis tournament. Edberg, ranked sixth in the world, eliminated American Johan Kriek 6-3, 6-4 in his semifinal Saturday.

Becker, Nystrom upset in New York

NEW YORK (R) — It was Argentina Day at the 5615,000 Tournament of Champions Friday, as Martin Jaita upset Wimbledon champion Boris Becker of West Germany and then Guillermo Vilas out-duelled Sweden's Joakim Nystrom to set up a semifinal battle between the two compatriots.

Jones, Erving lead Sixers

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Two "old codgers" gave young Charles Barkley a helping hand to keep the Philadelphia 76ers kicking in the NBA playoffs.

Bobby Jones, 34, and Julius Erving, 35, reached back for the brilliance of their youth Friday night as the 76ers routed the Milwaukee Bucks, 126-108.

The victory evened the best of seven Eastern Conference semifinal series at three games apiece.

The 76ers and the Bucks will meet in the seventh game Sunday in Milwaukee to determine who advances to the conference final against the Boston Celtics.

Jones, who unofficially has announced his retirement after 13 years as a pro, scored 23 points, handed out four assists, took down four rebounds and blocked three shots.

He was seven for nine from the field and nine for 11 at the foul line in 28 minutes of action.

Erving, who has announced he'll play one more season before calling it a career, collected 18 points, six rebounds, three assists and two blocked shots.

Barkley, who has carried the Sixers on his broad shoulders throughout the series, hurt the Bucks again. He had 23 points and 21 rebounds.

Almost lost in the Jones-Erving-Barkley performances was point guard Maurice Cheeks, who had a triple double — 16 points, 10 rebounds and 13 assists.

The 76ers led 35-28 after a quarter and 62-54 at halftime. They broke the game open with a 24-8 third period surge that gave them

a 21-point lead at 90-69. The Bucks never got closer than 16 after that.

The defending NBA Champion Los Angeles Lakers, fresh from a hard-fought series with the Dallas Mavericks, have another Texas-size hurdle to clear — the "Twin Towers" of Houston.

The Lakers, having finally disposed of the scrappy Mavericks in six games in their Western Conference semifinal, open the conference final Saturday against the Houston Rockets, complete with "Twin Towers" Ralph Sampson, (2.23-metre), and 2.13-metre Akeem Olajuwon.

And the Rockets come into the series with some Texas-size confidence.

"We know we can beat them — we just have to go out and prove it now," Sampson said.

The Rockets, like the Lakers, wrapped up their semifinal series on Thursday night. Houston outlasted the Denver Nuggets 126-122 in double overtime to win that series in six games.

The Lakers, who opened the playoffs with three lopsided victories over San Antonio for a sweep of that series, were tested against the Mavericks. After going up 2-0, the Lakers lost two games in Dallas before returning home to go up 3-2, then closed out the series with a 120-107 victory in Dallas.

Los Angeles is seeking to become the first team to repeat as NBA champions since the Boston Celtics in 1969, while the Rockets are out to prove they are a championship-calibre team.

All of Mexico looks to Sanchez

By Stephen Addison
Reuter

MEXICO CITY — The scenes which greeted Hugo Sanchez's homecoming from Spain Friday revealed the heroic status in which he is held by Mexican soccer fans — and the pressures he will face during the World Cup finals.

Sanchez, regarded as the prodigal son of Mexican soccer, was given an ecstatic welcome at the capital's Benito Juarez airport where more than 1,000 fans broke through police cordons, waved banners and chanted "Hugo, Hugo."

As security men struggled to hold back the crowd under a blaze of arc lights, Sanchez — fashionably dressed in a baggy grey suit and an open-necked white shirt — gave his famous boyish grin and waved before being taken to a packed news conference.

The big question was about his knee, injured during his Spanish club Real Madrid's triumphant UEFA Cup final against Cologne of West Germany.

Sanchez said it was "not too bad" and added that he hoped he would be fit to play again after taking the 10 days rest prescribed by doctors.

But he was quick to play down his individual importance to the Mexican challenge for the World Cup. "I'm part of a team," he said.

As Mexico's only proven world-class player, the left-footed striker carries the hopes of the entire country on his shoulders.

And judging by the adulation on the faces of normally reserved reporters and soccer officials Fri-

day, he is going to find it hard to achieve anonymity in the national squad.

He plans to spend a few days relaxing at the home of his father-in-law, Alfonso Portugal, former trainer to the Mexican amateur team, before joining the squad on Monday.

Owing to his injury, it is still not known if he will play in a warm-up match against England in Los Angeles on May 17.

Mexico's first game in the finals will be against Belgium on June 3 in the 110,000-capacity Aztec Stadium. Group B also includes Paraguay and Iraq. Mexico, with all the advantages of the hosts, are favourites to win it.

Amid popping flashlights, Sanchez said he believed Mexico had a good chance, but he refused to be drawn as to potential rivals.

His modest answers were in contrast to the excitement surrounding his return to play in serious competition in Mexico for the first time since leaving for Madrid in 1980. The rest of Mexico seems to share a widespread feeling that the national squad is in better shape than ever before.

Mexico have not won a game in the World Cup finals since 1970 and failed to qualify for the 1982 finals in Spain. But a string of wins in warm-up matches, played without Sanchez, have lifted hopes.

While remaining sceptical, sports writers have grudgingly agreed that Yugoslav coach Bora Milutinovic has gone a long way towards eradicating the defeatism and lack of strength that has characterised previous Mexican teams.

With the advantages of a home

crowd and being used to the altitude of Mexico City, Mexico have emerged as strong contenders. Sanchez was quoted in Madrid saying: "It will be a dream playing this tournament on home soil in front of my own people."

Sanchez first came to prominence during a tour of France with the Mexican youth squad. He was instantly dubbed the "Golden Boy" and later played for six years with Mexico's national Autonomous University (UNAM) team before joining Atletico Madrid.

He became the Spanish league's leading goal scorer with Atletico, a feat he repeated this season following his transfer to Real last year.

A nimble, almost gymnastic player, his speciality is the overhead kick, known in Mexico as the maroma or somersault. A trick many think he got from his sister Herlinda, a former member of Mexico's gymnastics squad.

Married with a young son, also called Hugo, Sanchez has a reputation as a clean-living, hard-working player which has added to his mass appeal and television marketability.

Long accustomed to seeing him promote soft drinks, clothes and cars, the Mexican public will at last have a chance to see him "live" in the national colours of green, red and white when the tournament starts at the end of the month.

Judging by Friday's welcome, the reception he will get when he steps onto the pitch on June 3 will be enough to convince even the most sceptical observer that Mexico mean serious business on and off the pitch during the finals.

Prost, Mansell lead off at Monaco

MONTE CARLO (R) — World champion Alain Prost ended Ayrton Senna's practice supremacy at the last four races by snatching pole position in Saturday's final qualifying session for Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix.

Brazilian Senna, dominant in

his Lotus all season, had looked set for a repeat performance but had to settle for third place on the 20-car starting grid.

First, Briton Nigel Mansell rocketed from a non-qualifying 22nd place in his Williams and beat Senna's pace-setting time.

Then Prost followed up with a stunning run of one minute 22.627 seconds in his McLaren.

Mansell, troubled by engine failures in Thursday's initial session, clocked the second-best time 1:23.047, leaving Senna on the second row with 1:23.175.

Prost, who served notice that he intends to retain his crown by winning the 22nd Grand Prix of his career at Imola two weeks ago, bids for a hat-trick of Monaco triumphs Sunday.

"This is the most important place to get pole position because of the difficulty in overtaking," said Prost after qualifying fastest for the first time since last year's Belgian Grand Prix.

Prost is currently second in the championship, two points behind joint leaders Senna and his compatriot Nelson Piquet, only "the fastest" in the second Williams Saturday.

Mansell, involved in a collision with the Ligier of Rene Arnoux during the morning's untimed run, went into the closing session facing elimination. Places on the Monaco grid are limited to 20 for safety reasons.

"It was very worrying," he said. "It is a tribute to the whole team and their expertise that I'm now in contention."

ANNOUNCEMENT

ABDUL HAMID SHOMAN FOUNDATION

In view of the success of the artist Issam Badr's exhibition, it has decided to extend the exhibition for three additional days effective Sunday May 11th. The scientific cultural centre will be open to public daily from 9 a.m. till 2:30 p.m. & from 8:30 p.m. till 11:00 p.m.

Abdul Hamid Shoman public library will be open to public during the month of Ramadan as per the above schedule.

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Tel: 625155
SCANDALOUS (Colour)
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cine-Theatre Philadelphi
Tel: 634144 - 634149
WHITE NIGHTS (Colour)
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15

Cinema RAGHADAN
Tel: 622198
THE PROTECTOR (Colour)
Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 8:30, 9:00

Cinema OPERA
Abdali, behind Alfa office
Tel: 675573
OUT OF ORDER (Colour)
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

U.N. General Assembly agrees to cut spending by \$30 million

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United Nations General Assembly broke a weeklong deadlock and approved a \$30 million package of budget cuts to meet the U.N.'s financial crisis.

The final meeting of the assembly's resumed session Friday was marred by disagreements that pushed the starting time back 4½ hours.

Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar proposed the package, which ran into stiff resistance from Third World countries that pay only a small share of the U.N. budget but have the biggest voice on how the money is spent.

While U.N. officials described the outcome as a "reluctant consensus," Mr. Perez De Cuellar hailed the result as "an important step toward strengthening the organization at a time when its viability was under threat."

Left open in the compromise worked out between the industrial and developing countries was Mr. Perez De Cuellar's proposal to curtail the fall session of the General Assembly from 13 weeks to 10 for a saving of \$1.1 million. A final decision is to be made by the 41st General Assembly when it convenes in September.

A major breakthrough was an agreement by the 51-nation African group to hold a special session on South-West Africa within the framework of the regular session instead of separately.

The regular session is to adjourn after opening on Sept. 16 and go into special session until Sept. 20 on the question of Namibia's independence.

In return, Mr. Perez De Cuellar promised to review other parts of his package "in the light of the evolving financial situation."

Other budget-cutting items include a postponement of the construction of a U.N. conference centre in Ethiopia and a freeze on other capital expenditures that could save \$9 million.

The financial crisis was brought on mainly by the decision by the U.S. Congress to reduce America's contribution to the U.N. budget by an estimated \$70 million.

Those cutbacks reflected congressional unhappiness over paying 25 per cent of the budget of an organization often perceived in Washington as anti-American.

The United States and eight other industrial countries, plus the Soviet Union, pay for nearly 80 per cent of the U.N. biennial budget of \$1.66 billion.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.)—The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, May 3, '86 and ending Wednesday, May 7, 1986. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Petra Bank	7005	18726	2.550	2.730	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	2812	6322	2.300	2.300	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	9070	20099	2.180	2.220	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	9800	14700	1.500	1.500	1.000
Housing Bank	5260	8616	1.610	1.630	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	500	1040	2.150	2.080	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	1616	50851	31.200	31.500	5.000
Bank of Jordan	310	6093	20.050	19.100	5.000
Arab Bank	1920	282806	147.500	145.250	10.000
Jordan National Bank	21195	52782	2.490	2.490	1.000
Jordan Finance House	7250	6090	0.840	0.840	1.000
Islamic Investment House	6543	5607	0.870	0.860	1.000
Jordan Investment & Finance Corporation	50952	39464	1.280	1.270	1.000
Finance & Credit Corporation	16367	6055	0.860	0.870	1.000
National Financial Investments	3650	4432	1.240	1.210	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	4985	3407	0.680	0.690	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	3812	2323	0.610	0.600	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	11639	11756	1.030	1.010	1.000
Insurance					
Jordan French Insurance	1927	4984	2.580	2.610	1.000
RESCO Insurance	4170	1626	0.880	0.900	1.000
Jordan Insurance	1050	11025	10.500	10.500	1.000
Arab Insurance	1561	1218	0.790	0.780	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance	400	334	0.800	0.850	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	2700	2565	0.950	0.950	1.000
Al Izzah Insurance	3010	3009	0.900	1.000	1.000
Arabian Seas Insurance	7875	20195	2.500	2.600	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	3000	2700	0.900	0.900	1.000
Services and industries					
Jordan Tobacco & Cigarettes	100	1350	13.500	13.500	5.000
Jordan Tanning	97	166	1.800	1.720	1.000
Woolen Industries	120	86	0.700	0.720	1.000
Jordan Electric Power	13002	19669	1.510	1.510	1.000
National Shipping Lines	100	70	0.710	0.700	1.000
Jordan Dairy	5741	6642	1.160	1.160	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	5407	17867	3.310	3.300	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	11990	7894	0.650	0.650	1.000
Jordan Paper & Cardboard Factories	2814	7916	2.710	2.730	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	1190	7558	2.100	2.150	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	2557	4294	1.640	1.700	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergents	2365	10010	4.230	4.240	1.000
Alladin Industries	3368	2014	0.600	0.590	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	10320	8593	0.840	0.840	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	250	963	3.750	3.850	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	3121	3016	0.960	0.970	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	10400	13366	1.300	1.280	1.000
Chemical Industries	11850	11476	0.970	0.970	1.000
Jordan Industries and Matches (JIMCO)	12550	7071	0.600	0.550	1.000
Arab International Hotels	2200	814	0.370	0.370	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development & Investment	3509	5157	1.450	1.470	1.000
National Steel Industries	17950	21538	1.200	1.200	1.000
Jordan Leasing Equipment	1319	913	0.690	0.690	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	1682	1228	0.730	0.730	1.000
General Mining	200	338	1.700	1.690	1.000
Petra for Projects & Leasing	5209	1198	0.730	0.730	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	5595	38164	6.720	6.750	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	4000	1000	0.250	0.250	1.000
National Industries	4841	3825	0.800	0.790	1.000
Arab Paper Converting & Trading	33200	10292	0.310	0.310	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	1000	1167	1.180	1.160	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	9600	5280	0.520	0.550	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries	37344	13070	0.350	0.350	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	369	2085	5.600	5.650	1.000
Grand total	415249	819581			

U.S. Congress panel opens fire on Washington's economic policy

WASHINGTON (AP)—United States government policy on Third World debt has helped big American banks but damaged Third World countries and U.S. farmers and workers, the joint economic committee of Congress charged Saturday.

The World Bank estimates developing countries' debt as close to \$1 trillion.

"It was clear from the outset that the Third World debt problem posed a serious, potentially even catastrophic threat to the stability of the international financial system," a committee report said.

It added that catastrophe has been avoided, but suggested that the relief is temporary.

"Current administration policies offer Latin American debtor nations little hope that their debt service burden will be eased anytime soon," it said.

"Consequently, the pressure on Latin American leaders to default or declare a debt moratorium could increase substantially. This, in turn, could force banks to write-down their Latin American loans by an amount that would impair their capital," the report added.

Representative David R. Obey, chairman of the committee, made up of members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, said in a statement:

"The study clearly shows that, since 1982, the administration has pursued policies that, in effect, rewarded the big American banks whose unwise lending policies helped precipitate the crisis, while penalising American farmers and other American exporters."

The report described how debtor countries cut their imports, especially of U.S. goods, in order to get money to keep up their payments of interest.

It saw little new in the proposal by Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III last October for \$29 billion in additional lending to 15 countries, 10 of them in Latin America.

It said the difference is that talk is now of growth rather than austerity, and responsibility has shifted from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to the World Bank.

A recent report from Sao Paulo, Brazil, indicates that the number of malnourished Brazilian children increased by 21 million over the past 10 years," the report said.

"And in virtually all debtor nations, a typical IMF adjustment programme calls on debtor nation governments to reduce domestic food price subsidies, thereby restricting domestic food consumption and contributing to the growing incidence of malnutrition," it added.

Mr. Baker's proposal is designed to increase the growth of the economy in debtor countries, so that there will be more to dis-

tribute to everyone.

"It is doubtful that the amount called for by the Baker plan will be sufficient ... either to reduce current pressures on debtor nations to expand exports or permit them to boost their growth, investment, and imports," the report said.

The report noted that earnings of large U.S. banks have grown during the crisis.

"We must ask whether more loans whose primary purpose seem to be ensuring that debtor nations continue paying interest to commercial banks will help U.S. farmers and U.S. exporters," Mr. Obey said.

"Or will they merely continue to preserve bank profits at the expense of these vulnerable sectors of our economy?" he asked.

The committee report suggested two alternative policies:

— To ask the commercial banks to cut or eliminate the difference between the interest rate they charge to borrowing countries and the rate they pay on money they borrow themselves.

— To limit interest payments by borrowing countries to a fixed percentage of what they earn by selling their goods. Peru has unilaterally limited its payments on loans to 10 per cent of its export earnings.

The report suggests a limit of 25 per cent, along with instructions to banks to reduce the amount of their loans by one per cent for each year that the limit remains in effect.

It said these approaches would limit the amounts that debtors have to pay, without making the banks unprofitable.

Meanwhile, top business leaders predicted Friday that over the next two years, Americans will benefit by stable interest rates, low inflation and higher income.

Despite the business executives' glowing forecast, they also expressed "a sense of uneasiness" because of weakness in business investment, and hard times in the agriculture and oilpatch areas of the nation.

The forecast was made at the spring meeting of the Business Council, made up of 200 executives from the country's largest corporations.

The executives generally gave a nod of approval to the tax package adopted last week by the Senate Finance Committee.

They did not see the added tax burden on corporations as detrimental to business, but expressed a sceptical wait-and-see attitude on any final version emerging from a conference with the Democratic-controlled House.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MAY 11, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early morning is fine for doing what pleases you and other persons, but soon you find some sudden event occurs forcing you to have a change of plans and accept new conditions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A fine day for an early start at doing errands, but later a jaunt for different purposes is in the works.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can handle any money affairs well in the morning, but later a practical person requires all of your attention. Be wise.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are charming in the morning and can make everything harmonious around you, but later an associate wants your time.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Try to please your mate early in the day, and then get at the activities that are important to you at this time.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A good day to visit many pals you want to retain as friends for a long time to come. Study how best to gain your personal goals.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Contact a bigwig who can do you a big favor in the morning, and then be with your family and take them out to a charming place.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Meet with one on whom you want to make a good impression early, and then handle regular home affairs well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to please your mate and then get at the activities that also mean a great deal to you. Drive carefully today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure to back a good ally and improve the relationship early. Do nothing that can offend an associate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Early get your home improved and clean, and then you can be with others at some mutual activity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Plan recreation, and then be with your mate and friends and enjoy it. You can be a fine success today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Making conditions better at home in the morning is wise, since later a situation could require your undivided attention.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have an unusual charm in early youth and many will be attracted to him or her, but later may try to run roughshod over others.

THE Daily Crossword

by Alfio Micoi

ACROSS

- 1 Israel's Abba
- 5 Hungarian hero
- 10 Merit
- 14 Miss Barrett
- 15 "Old MacDonald" had a farm, —
- 16 Ice cream unit
- 17 Wagner work
- 20 South for
- 21 One-man
- 22 Van der Rohe
- 23 Turk, in
- 24 Seaton
- 25 Cut
- 26 Colored ornament
- 29 Defeat
- 30 Possibilities
- 33 Greeted the dawn
- 34 Salsa
- 35 Med. subj.
- 36 Puccini work
- 39 Declare to be true
- 40 Colloquial
- 41 Lity
- 42 Scare
- 43 Rousing stick
- 44 Madras suitors
- 45 Highlander
- 46 — Spade
- 47 Rust, vehicle
- 50 Cerebral prefix
- 51 Humpy
- 54 Work by Humphreys
- 57 "A Kid Out of Year"
- 58 Roman magistrate
- 59 Zulu's love
- 60 Snack rule
- 61 Lending out
- 62 Tie feature

DOWN

- 1 Thus
- 2 Simplicity
- 3 Agonal
- 4 King Cole
- 5 Rabbit ears
- 6 Fave
- 7 Side dish
- 8 Purpose
- 9 Riding
- 10 Ort
- 11 Team
- 12 — of the
- 13 Thousand Days
- 14 Army gp.
- 15 Symbol
- 16 Ooze
- 17 Membership
- 18 Philippine
- 19 island
- 20 Desire avidly
- 21 Copland ballet
- 22 Glacial ridges
- 23 Abrupt
- 24 Awaiting
- 25 Test answer
- 26 Eye affliction
- 27 Yarn
- 28 Seething
- 29 "A crowd is" (sublime)
- 30 Wire intercom
- 31 Make beloved
- 32 Creche setting
- 33 Meetings
- 34 Creep
- 35 Flying prefix
- 36 Small piece
- 37 Storm
- 38 Change for a tree
- 39 Fit of pique
- 40 Kanton or
- 41 Get
- 42 Flying prefix
- 43 Small piece
- 44 Storm
- 45 Change for a tree
- 46 Wagon

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

- 1 ISRAEL
- 5 ABRAHAM
- 10 MERIT
- 14 MISS BARRETT
- 15 OLD MACDONALD
- 16 ICE CREAM UNIT
- 17 WAGNER
- 20 SOUTH
- 21 ONE-MAN
- 22 VAN DER ROHE
- 23 TURK
- 24 SEATON
- 25 CUT
- 26 COLORED ORNAMENT
- 29 DEFEAT
- 30 POSSIBILITIES
- 33 GREETED THE DAWN
- 34 SALSA
- 35 MED. SUBJ.
- 36 PUCCINI
- 39 DECLARE TO BE TRUE
- 40 COLLOQUIAL
- 41 LITY
- 42 SCARE
- 43 Rousing stick
- 44 MADRAS
- 45 HIGHLANDER
- 46 — SPADE
- 47 RUST
- 50 CEREBRAL
- 51 HUMPY
- 54 WORK BY HUMPHREYS
- 57 "A KID OUT OF YEAR"
- 58 ROMAN
- 59 ZULU
- 60 SNACK RULE
- 61 LENDING OUT
- 62 TIE FEATURE

DOWN

- 1 THUS
- 2 SIMPLICITY
- 3 AGONAL
- 4 KING COLE
- 5 RABBIT EARS
- 6 FAVE
- 7 SIDE DISH
- 8 PURPOSE
- 9 RIDING
- 10 ORT
- 11 TEAM
- 12 — OF THE
- 13 THOUSAND DAYS
- 14 ARMY GP.
- 15 SYMBOL
- 16 OOZE
- 17 MEMBERSHIP
- 18 PHILIPPINE
- 19 ISLAND
- 20 DESIRE AVIDLY
- 21 COPLAND
- 22 GLACIAL RIDGES
- 23 ABRUPT
- 24 AWAITING
- 25 TEST ANSWER
- 26 EYE AFFLICTION
- 27 YARN
- 28 SEETHING
- 29 "A CROWD IS"
- 30 WIRE INTERCOM
- 31 MAKE BELIEVED
- 32 CRECHE SETTING
- 33 MEETINGS
- 34 CREEP
- 35 FLYING PREFIX
- 36 SMALL PIECE
- 37 STORM
- 38 CHANGE FOR A TREE
- 39 FIT OF PIQUE
- 40 KANTON OR
- 41 GET
- 42 FLYING PREFIX
- 43 SMALL PIECE
- 44 STORM
- 45 CHANGE FOR A TREE
- 46 WAGON

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

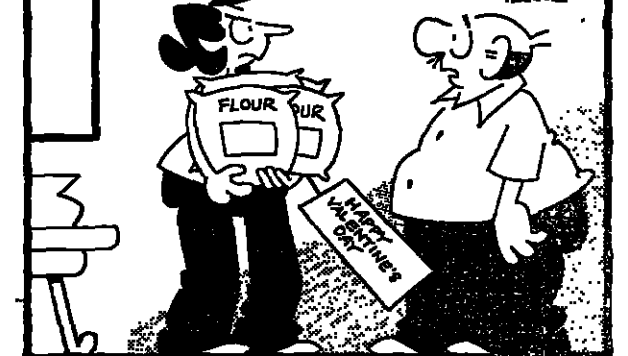


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FRIGE

YOWDD

IBINIK

DOALUN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SOAFY HURRY BELIEF ELICIT
Answer: What the detectives at that elegant butcher shop were on the lookout for—
"CHOP" LIFTERS

Punjab government to seek Hindu, Communist support

NEW DELHI (R) — Punjab's moderate Sikh government, its back to the wall after a split in the ruling Akali Dal Party, said Saturday it would seek the support of right-wing Hindu and Communist groups to retain power.

Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, struggling to contain a crisis sparked by a police raid on the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple, said he had summoned the North Indian state's assembly to meet on June 2 in a bid to remove its rebel speaker.

The speaker recognised 27 Akali Dal dissidents opposed to the Golden Temple assault as a separate group on Thursday, posing the biggest political setback to Barnala since he took office seven months ago.

In another challenge to Mr. Barnala, hardline Sikh groups said thousands of supporters would start a blockade of their holy city Amritsar, site of the Golden Temple, Sunday unless police were withdrawn from the shrine.

Akali Dal sources said Mr. Barnala who now has only 45 supporters in the 115-seat state assembly, would be backed by six members of the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, one member of the Community Party of India and four independents.

But Mr. Barnala, who more than trebled his eight-member cabinet on Tuesday, would not take up an offer of support by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, the state's largest opposition group, the sources said.

The Akali Dal split occurred after Mr. Barnala expelled three former ministers for "anti-party and anti-state" activities.

The three men resigned from the cabinet after the April 30 raid by police and commandos on the Golden Temple to dislodge extremists who had proclaimed a separate Sikh state.

Police said the death toll in reprisal attacks by Sikh extremists since the assault rose to 42 Friday when two men wounded in earlier shootings died in hospital.

They also said security had been tightened around Amritsar to head off violence over the militants' blockade plans.

Joginder Singh, head of the hardline United Akali Dal group,

has urged supporters to prevent supplies of milk and food entering the city.

Joginder Singh's son Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale was killed when the Indian army stormed the Golden Temple in June 1984 to flush out heavily-armed extremists.

The beleaguered Barnala received a boost Friday when the powerful Sikh Temples Management Committee, which looks after the community's religious affairs, said it backed his action in raiding the shrine and expelling the three rebel ministers.

Calling for political action to end the stalemate, Prem Bhatia, editor of Punjab's main English newspaper the Tribune, wrote Saturday:

"The terrorist killings, an incompetent and contaminated police force, a derailed bureaucracy and finally political leaders who rarely see beyond their noses, have turned us into a sick state."

The Independent Times of India newspaper said the split was likely to erode Mr. Barnala's self-confidence and added: "The ugly scene in Punjab has taken another turn for the worse... the country is in for a hot and bloody summer (in the state)."

S. African forces enter black township

ALEXANDRIA, South Africa (R) — Hundreds of soldiers and police moved into a black South African township during the night in a security sweep, police and residents said Saturday.

The security forces began "a joint crime prevention operation" in Alexandria township near Johannesburg at midnight Friday, a police spokesman said.

A police spokesman in Alexandria said 1,670 troops and police were taking part in the security operation. Reporters saw large numbers of armed troops lining streets inside the township.

Five people had been arrested so far, mainly for possessing stolen goods, the spokesman said.

Road-blocks sealed off the entrances to the township and residents and vehicles entering or leaving were searched.

Alexandra, a poor township nestled among some of Johannesburg's wealthiest white suburbs, was the scene of protests in

February in which at least 22 people died. Several people died in further disturbances there last month.

The police spokesman said the operation was necessary to combat crime and political unrest. It would go on for as long as was necessary to "stabilise the situation," he said.

Residents told Reuters that the army and police began house-to-house searches before dawn Saturday night.

The situation in the township was very tense. Soldiers, wearing combat dress and armed with rifles stood at intervals of 20 metres along streets on the edge of the township. They stood in pairs, with one soldier protecting the other's back.

Peter Bundred, a doctor at Alexandra Clinic, which has treated victims of previous unrest, said two army doctors had come to the clinic early Saturday morning, saying they wanted to stay and "monitor the situation," Dr. Bundred

said he had told the doctors to leave immediately.

After the February protests, police seized medical records from the Alexandra clinic.

Armoured personnel vehicles, carrying police and army troops, rumbled along the dusty streets of the township as residents stood in groups watching.

Elsewhere in South Africa, the political violence that has claimed more than 1,500 lives in more than two years continued.

Police said they used teargas or shotguns to disperse groups of blacks in several townships around the country.

They also fired teargas after their vehicle was stoned in a township near Koonstend in the Orange Free State. One policeman and one resident were injured.

Police said they used shotguns and pistols to disperse people who threw petrol bombs and fired shots at the home of a councillor in KwaZakale township in the eastern Cape.

Sri Lankan troops raid Tamil guerrilla hideouts

COLOMBO (R) — Troops killed four guerrillas in a raid on a major hideout of a Tamil separatist group blamed for two bomb blasts in the Sri Lankan capital over the past week, the Defence Ministry said Saturday.

A spokesman said the hideout belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas was destroyed by the raid, which took place during a four-day operation in eastern Trincomalee district.

The government has blamed the LTTE, the strongest guerrilla group fighting for a separate Tamil state in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, for two attacks in Colombo in which 28 people were killed.

Sixteen people, mostly Western tourists, died and 100 were injured when an explosion ripped through an Air Lanka Trident at Colombo airport on May 3.

Four days later a bomb blast in Colombo's Central Telegraph Office killed 12 people and injured more than 100, causing panic in the city and several bomb scares in offices.

In one scare, at least 40 women workers were injured when the loud noise of a burst tyre from a container truck set off a stampede Friday.

Workers at a garment factory at Katunayake, 35 kilometres west of Colombo, jumped out of windows and fled through exists fearing a bomb had exploded.

Investigators probing the blast at the telephone office said they were still searching for more bodies in the wreckage.

Police urged banks and city offices to step up bomb precautions after National Security Minister Lalith Athulathududai said in parliament last week that the guerrillas might strike again in Colombo.

Police cleared Air Lanka headquarters in Colombo Friday after a telephone bomb threat but no device was found.

Congress urged to increase SDI funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Edward Teller, the physicist who helped lead President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars," has told the U.S. Congress that spending should be increased for the anti-missile programme rather than cut.

"We are underfunded," said Mr. Teller, who is best known as the main scientific supporter of U.S. development of the nuclear-armed atomic weapons.

In an appearance before the Senate Defence Appropriations Subcommittee, Mr. Teller reiterated his view that the Soviet Union is far ahead of the United States in some areas of developing a defence against nuclear missiles because the Soviets have been heavily spending on the programme for at least two decades.

Mr. Reagan has asked Congress to increase the budget for the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), as the programme is formally known, from the current \$2.7 billion to \$4.8 billion in the fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

Congress last year trimmed \$1 billion from Mr. Reagan's Star Wars request for the current year and is considered very likely to also cut next year's request as part of the congressional effort to reduce the budget.

Mr. Teller told the panel Friday that next year's request is "a little less than 2 per cent of our military budget" and said "this is certainly not as much money as the Soviets will spend on the same general purpose in the same period."

"Considering the fact that in true defensive measures we are late-comers, this requested amount is desperately needed," said Mr. Teller.

Mr. Teller has long advocated development of a defence against incoming missiles and heavily lobbied Mr. Reagan to make such a programme a high U.S. priority. The scientists' advocacy has been cited by administration officials as a key factor in Mr. Reagan's March, 1983 speech in which the president called for an intensive U.S. research campaign to develop such a defence.

Mr. Teller told the panel that "at this time, the Soviet Union enjoys a monopoly in defensive weapons and also in most of the research leading to such weapons."

W. Germany arrests 11 anti-nuclear protesters

LUECHOW, West Germany (R) — Eleven anti-nuclear protesters were arrested Saturday after trying to block a railway line leading to a nuclear waste dump close to the East German border, police said.

A police spokesman said the protesters had cut down telegraph poles and removed ballast from the track, which is used by trains carrying nuclear waste to the dump at Gorleben.

The next train to Gorleben was not due to use the line until Monday, the spokesman said.

Several hundred demonstrators gathered near this village Friday night. Police reported clashes with some of the protesters, who repeatedly tried to tear down the protective fencing surrounding the Gorleben dump, the scene of similar clashes in the past.

Organisers of the anti-nuclear protest, which is due to continue through Sunday, said their action had been boosted by the disaster at the Chernobyl power plant.

The opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD), which helped shape West Germany's nuclear policy during its 19 years in power until 1982, is also having second thoughts about the inherent risk of nuclear energy.

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Nitze: Chernobyl may affect Geneva arms talks

HOT SPRINGS, VIRGINIA (AP) — A top American official expects the Chernobyl nuclear accident will lead the Soviet Union to "hunch up" in the initial stages of the Geneva arms control talks.

But Paul Nitze, special presidential adviser on arms control, also said Friday that in the long run, the disaster at Chernobyl may yet encourage Soviet negotiators to get down to serious talks at the table in Geneva.

Mr. Nitze drew that conclusion in remarks to reporters following a speech at a closed-door meeting of the business council, an advisory organisation to major corporations.

He was asked at the news conference if the nuclear incident at Chernobyl will force the Soviets to do some posturing so they won't appear weak to the world.

"In the short run, it might cause them to draw back and to hunch up and not move very far," Mr. Nitze said. "But in the long run, it might have a more favourable impact... to negotiate seriously."

The Geneva talks began Thursday.

U.S. negotiators are "hopeful that the Soviet Union will make it possible to make progress during this new round of the arms control negotiation," Mr. Nitze said.

"So far, we've seen no indication that will happen," he said. "But we continue to be hopeful."

Mr. Nitze also said he does not believe last month's U.S. bombing of Libya will have much bearing on the arms control talks.

"In the past," he said, "the Soviets have joined us in trying to isolate serious arms control talks from incidents such as Libya..."

He said "both sides try to concentrate on the serious matters at hand, and try to exclude day-to-day disturbing things outside the negotiations, but you can't always do that."

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Muscovites greet Kiev evacuees with mixture of apprehension, joy

MOSCOW (AP) — The uncertainty fueling an exodus from Kiev this week after the Chernobyl nuclear accident is written on the faces of children guarding suitcases and parents clutching infants as they wait for relatives and friends at Moscow's Kievsky Railway Station.

But the solemn looks often dissolve into smiles as plump grandmothers or young women with bunches of tulips, carnations and lilac rush up to embrace friends and family arriving from the Ukraine.

For the past four days, up to 10 trains a day have streamed into the railway station from Kiev, setting the cavernous halls of the Stalinist building ringing with chatter and buzzing with activity.

Muscovites arriving late to meet a Kiev train dash up to others, inquiring about platforms. Tired new arrivals still waiting to be greeted lean against walls, surrounded by knapsacks and bulging bags.

The number of arrivals from Kiev has sharply increased since last week, as has the presence of uniformed police and plainclothesmen who have asked at least three Western reporters questioning arrivals to leave the station.

Outside, militia and civilian Druzhiniki (volunteers) in red armbands use megaphones to maintain order while the arrivals line up behind metal crowd-control barriers to wait for taxis and buses.

As trains with up to 20 cars of 36 passengers each lumber into the station, uniformed guards stand watch at the open doors of each car. Behind them, travellers eager to end their journey crowd the corridors.

Others stay in their compartments, eyes pressed against the windows, gazing anxiously at the throng on the platform for a familiar face.

For many, this is an unexpected family reunion, or a meeting with a new young friend or relative they have never seen before.

"Look, this is Grisha," one woman said, proudly showing off her grandson to a friend who met her Saturday morning.

"He's grown a lot, hasn't he," murmured one young woman to another as they waited for a teenage acquaintance already spotted from the platform.

For another woman, a Saturday train offered the chance to get some needed possessions from Kiev.

"No, I haven't just arrived," she said, flashing a smile of several

golden teeth at a reporter. "We came from Kiev on the 7th already, now I'm just getting something we left behind."

Children of all ages have poured off the trains in the past three days. Most travellers have assured inquiring Western reporters that "everything is normal, everything is calm" in Kiev and several assert that their travels were planned long in advance.

A few admit, however, to worry about children.

"Quite a few people are leaving," said a woman who arrived from Kiev alone on Saturday. "They say on the radio that everything is fine, but people with children still want to get them out."

Meanwhile, some people evacuated from around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant spoke sadly Friday about having to leave their homes, but others took it in stride, saying they had been through it before, when the Nazis invaded.

"I took some things, two or three little blankets and pillows," said 80-year-old Marina Ilchenko, an evacuee temporarily housed at the Kopekovo State Farm. "We had to leave our dog."

Mrs. Ilchenko left the Chernobyl area in the second wave of an exodus from the April 26 nuclear accident that sent a cloud of radioactivity over Europe. Eventually 84,000 people and 34,000 head of livestock left the area south of the Chernobyl plant, officials told foreign reporters Friday as they guided them on a tour arranged by the Soviet Foreign Ministry, complete with police escort.

The evacuees are staying in hundreds of villages, sharing homes and working dormitory rooms with residents.

The journalists were not taken near the disaster site, 130 kilometres north of the Ukraine's capital Kiev. Nor did they approach the "danger zone" an area 30 kilometres in radius.

"There's no point in going to the zone," said Ivan Plyusch, a local government official for a region that includes Chernobyl. "Just empty countryside."

Reporters were instead taken to this state farm, a community of 2,000 workers 50 kilometres west of Kiev. The community took 1,060 evacuees from the Opachiki Collective Farm, 28 kilometres from the crippled reactor.

The Opachiki residents were told on May 2 that they had to leave with their livestock. Ukrainian authorities, estimating the disaster was first underestimated, revealed earlier that a decision to

evacuate beyond 10 kilometres of the plant was not made until then.

"They came and explained on Friday and took us here," said Mrs. Ilchenko. "We had just built a new home," she continued in Russian with a heavy Ukrainian accent. Then she started weeping.

"We came willingly," said schoolteacher Svetlana Boloshenko, who left with her three children. An 18-year-old woman who gave her name as Antonia said she knew there had been an explosion at the plant but that she could not believe the accident was so severe.

"If the radiation had been strong, they would have taken us away," she said.

"We've been evacuated before," shrugged an old woman, alluding to upheavals during Nazi Germany's invasion.

The Kopekovo State Farm's hair-dressing shop has been turned into a make-shift clinic with technicians taking blood samples from evacuees. Orderlies in white coats and high red army boots checked peasants for radiation nearby at an army tent put up in the shade of a chestnut tree.

Dr. Ivan Vishnevsky said that so far, checks of the evacuees from Opachiki were hospitalised for radiation exposure.

People reporters talked with did not seem greatly concerned about radiation exposure. "We have thought about it, but what can we do about it?" said the teen-ager Antonia.

State farm officials said they could accommodate the evacuees for several months, but there was no indication when anyone expected to be able to return home. Most of the evacuees were already on new jobs at the Kopekovo State Farm, the officials said.

Plyusch said life in the danger region had been normal immediately after the accident until the severity of it became clear.

"When I got there," he said without specifying the location, "people were fine. There were still weddings going on."

He said when it was decided to evacuate the first wave, from within 10 kilometres of the reactor, "we told people they were going for a few days."

"We told them they could take their dogs and pets."

Asked how long the danger zone would be closed, Plyusch said, "if I knew it, I would tell you."

The journalists later returned to Kiev and then were taken back to Moscow.

Kiev was quiet Friday was a state holiday for the anniversary of victory-Europe Day.

Engineers predict little contamination danger in melt through of Chernobyl

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Chernobyl's nuclear core is unlikely to contaminate groundwater even if it melts through the floor of the reactor building, U.S. nuclear engineers have said.

"The potential of contamination through material that got out into the atmosphere is always vastly greater than for stuff fighting its way through the ground," said Robert Avery, a nuclear reactor expert at Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois.

If the core does melt through its concrete floor, it would probably not travel very far into the ground before beginning to cool and harden, Avery said in an interview.

Although the core would extremely radioactive, it would harden into a glass-like mass not likely to spread through soil or water, said Jan Van Erp, a nuclear safety engineer at Argonne.

The engineers share the view of

many American scientists that a meltdown must have occurred at the Chernobyl reactor.

"It would be unreasonable to imagine a huge amount of (radioactive) material getting out — as it apparently did — without there being a meltdown," Avery said.

Van Erp said that the reactor core had obviously lost its cooling system. Without continuous cooling, a reactor core will continue to heat up until it melts, he said.

The heat comes from the radioactive decay of the elements produced as a by-product of the splitting, or fission, or uranium during the reactor's normal operation, Van Erp said.

Morris Rosen, an American who directs the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) division of nuclear safety, said Friday in a Moscow press conference that a meltdown never occurred.

A statement by the agency said, however, that the reactor core was extensively damaged. Rosen said workers were trying to build a concrete shield under the reactor in case a nuclear reactor should resume, sending radioactivity into the earth.

"I'm very surprised about what they're doing — tunnelling under the core," said Van Erp. "In all the studies I've seen over the years, I've never seen people considering tunnelling under the core."

Meanwhile, a nuclear safety expert said in Paris Friday that the damaged nuclear reactor will continue to give off heat for years.

Lars Hogberg, a top official of Sweden's Nuclear Power Inspectorate said the reactor was still generating an estimated six megawatts of heat from the radioactive decay of nuclear material inside the devastated building.

U.S. chain to manage Tibet's largest hotel

PEKING (AP) — The U.S. hotel chain Holiday Inn will manage Tibet's largest hotel, the official Chinese News Agency Xinhua said Saturday. It will be the first enterprise in Tibet involving foreign management, the report said. The 100-million-yuan \$31-million Lhasa Hotel opened last August. Holiday Inn took over its management under an agreement signed with the Tibetan Tourism Co. this week, the report said. The Chinese government is promoting tourism in Tibet.

Scholar files job loss suit

PALO ALTO, California (R) — British historian Norman Davies has filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against Stanford University, charging he was denied a permanent teaching post there because Jewish colleagues criticised his writings on Polish Jews. Davies, who is visiting Stanford this year from the University of London, was denied tenure at the northern California university four months ago on a 12-11 vote by its history department. His attorney, Paul McCloskey, said Davies had been told in December he would get the job and that the vote was only a formality. But, McCloskey said, six Jewish professors objected to a single chapter in a book written by Davies, God's Playground: A History of Poland. According to a letter explaining the denial of tenure, some professors felt the chapter made light of Polish injustices toward Jews before World War II. The lawsuit, filed last week, seeks \$3 million in general damages and \$100,000 for exemplary and punitive damages from each defendant.

Marriage rate hits record low for young women in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The marriage rate for eligible young women in the United States has dropped to the lowest level ever recorded, new government statistics disclosed. The marriage rate for single women aged 15 to 44 was 99.3 weddings per 1,000 women in 1983, the first time that measure has dipped below the 100 level since 1940 when the statistics were first recorded, according to the new report from the National Centre for Health Statistics. The report, the most recent complete marriage statistics available, showed a decline in total marriages from the record level of 1982. There were 2,445,604 marriages reported for 1983, down 10,674 from the year before.

Rabid dogs bite schoolchildren

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Officials ordered all schools closed in the northern resort town of Simla on Wednesday after some rabid dogs bit 20 people, most of them schoolchildren, reports said. The children were admitted to a hospital as police rushed to get special serum for their treatment from a research centre in nearby Kasauli, the United News of India agency reported. Municipal dog squads managed to kill one and were hunting for the other dogs on the winding, mountain roads of Simla, capital of the Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh. It was not immediately known how many dogs had attacked the people.

Experts say male pregnancy is possible

LONDON (R) — Some scientists believe that men are capable of giving birth as a result of embryo implantation on the bowel and that such cases might be possible within five years, the British magazine New Society has reported. "The technical difficulties would be enormous," the magazine quoted Alan Trounson, an expert on freezing embryos and the director of the Institute of Early Human Development at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, as saying. "And so would the ethical difficulties. But it could be done by getting an embryo to implant on the bowel," he said. "It can be done and undoubtedly someone will do it," the magazine, specialising in sociological issues, quoted King's College Hospital lecturer John Parson as saying. New Society said male pregnancy had been possible since the 1978 birth of the world's first baby conceived outside the mother's womb through so-called in-vitro fertilisation.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARIF
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THAT LITTLE EXTRA

East-West vulnerable. West deals

NORTH
♠ 8 4 4
♥ A Q J 6
♦ Q 10 9
♣ 10 8 7

WEST EAST
♠ Q J 10 7 5
♥ A 6 3
♦ 10 7 5 4 3
♣ 8 6 3

SOUTH
♠ K 2
♥ K
♦ A J 7 5 2
♣ A Q 9 8 2

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1 ♠
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 3 NT
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

No matter how remote a possible line of the cards might be, it always pays to take an extra chance for your contract if one is available. This hand is from the recent European Championship match between the Netherlands and Germany.

The auctions in the two rooms were identical. North's double was negative — a takeout for the club suit — and South's jump in the bid was invitational, not forcing. Since the double had promised hearts, the no trump game was a reasonable shot.

We applaud South's acuity, but his line was not without risk. Let's change the defenders' hands slightly, giving West the king-jack of clubs and a singleton diamond. Now when declarer lays down the ace of clubs West must still drop the king! He can see that a diamond finesse will succeed, so he must steer declarer away from the winning line and tempt him to take a finesse for the jack of clubs instead. If declarer takes the bait, he will go down in what seems to be an unbeatable contract.

Mr. Teller has long advocated development of a defence against incoming missiles and heavily lobbied Mr. Reagan to make such a programme a high U.S. priority. The scientists' advocacy has been cited by administration officials as a key factor in Mr. Reagan's March, 1983 speech in which the president called for an intensive U.S. research campaign to develop such a defence.

Mr. Teller told the panel that "at this time, the Soviet Union enjoys a monopoly in defensive weapons and also in most of the research leading to such weapons."